



Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

ACN 009 477 810 ABN 69 646 967 202

A Member Of The
National Farmers' Federation

TFGA House
Cnr Cimitiere & Charles Streets
Launceston Tasmania 7250
PO Box 193
Telephone **03 6332 1800**
Facsimile **03 6331 4344**

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Threatened vegetation regulations end uncertainty for farmers

Today's announcement by David Llewellyn, Minister for Primary Industries and Water, of new regulations relating to the protection of threatened native vegetation communities brings to an end nearly four years of uncertainty for land owners.

That is the view of Roger Swain, President of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.

"The proclamation of these regulations means that farmers are finally in a position to establish exactly where they stand with regard to threatened vegetation communities, and they can now make their future plans accordingly", he said.

Mr Swain noted that the TFGA is pleased that its considerable efforts over an extended period have paid off.

"Our aim has always been to ensure that these new regulations were as fair, practical and streamlined as possible."

"We have been able to negotiate what we believe are some very sensible outcomes for farmers."

"An important feature is the fact that land owners should be able to make the majority of land use decisions themselves through the use of specially prepared information kits, but will also have access to prompt assistance from specialists where they need it."

"We have also been able to minimise the impact of the regulations on normal farming activities."

"Existing land uses such as grazing, harvesting, slashing, and fuel reduction burning are not affected by the regulations and neither are land management practices necessary to protect farm infrastructure", Mr Swain said.

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Mr Swain emphasised that the regulations relate only to those native vegetation types that are listed as “threatened”, and are only relevant where land owners propose to clear and convert that native vegetation to another land use.

“We have also been able to clarify in forest practices regulations a sensible regime that enables farmers to manage regrowth scrub on agricultural land.”

“This is an issue which has been a real concern for land owners in recent years, and we are happy with what we see as a practical resolution of it.”

Mr Swain also pointed out that the legislation provides for compensation payable to land owners by the Government where the new regulations prevent them from developing land.

“Ensuring that Government has the means to meet this commitment is the vital next step and we continue to urge the Government to recognise this in the June State Budget”, he said.

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Contact:

Roger Swain - TFGA President - 0429 321 813