



May 14, 2009

Stephen Godfrey
General Manager
Information and Land Services
GPO Box 44
HOBART, TAS 7001

Dear Stephen,

Please accept this letter as the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) submission to the *Crown Lands Act* Review.

Firstly the TFGA would like to commend the Department of Primary Industries and Water for seeking to improve the currently antiquated system of managing Crown Land in Tasmania.

In addressing the questions raised under section 4.1 *The Crown land real estate function*, the TFGA encourages the State Government to streamline processes across government agencies and introduce a system that provides a consistent approach to the way that crown lands are assessed, administered and managed. The current system is not consistent and consequently generates confusion with leases and the general public. For instance some State government departments will allow the culling of wallabies on Crown lands whereas others will not.

In addressing the questions raised under section 4.2 *Crown land management function* the TFGA wishes to raise the following points:

1. The management of Crown lands is an area that the TFGA's members constantly raise as an issue particularly the management of weeds and pests within Crown lands. If Crown lands are to be recognised as a public asset the State Government must find resources or solutions to manage them appropriately.
2. Due to the complaints regarding the current management of Crown lands it is clear that the current arrangement for managing Crown lands is not efficient or adequate. In the TFGA's 2009/10 Budget Submission the TFGA suggested that recommended that the State Government look to develop a good neighbor charter approach to managing public land. The charter would be between private and public landowners and would outline a clear intent to manage the spread of weeds and pests across property boundaries according to best practice management standards.

The submission also recommended the development of a process for public and private land managers to be involved in property management planning at the sub-catchment level in regards to weed management. The TFGA strongly believes that this approach could be used for Crown lands in Tasmania. This process would be highly effective for forming partnerships with community groups and the agricultural sector for the purpose of managing Crown Lands.

In addressing the questions raised in section 4.3 *Other issues*, the TFGA believes that thought should be given to the role that Crown lands could potentially play if they were managed as part of a broader landscape mosaic. For instance the TFGA believes that some Crown lands could provide valuable reserves in times of drought. This would mean that some Crown lands would need to have different management objectives to Parks land.

I thank you for consulting the TFGA on this matter and we look forward to further discussion with the Department of Primary Industries and Water on the points raised within our submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Oldfield', written in a cursive style.

Chris Oldfield.
CEO