



Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

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A Member Of The
National Farmers' Federation

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Assistant Secretary
Irrigation Efficiency Southern Branch
Dept. Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

To whom it may concern,

Tasmanian agriculture continues to be an essential element of Tasmania's economy with the farm dependent economy contributing 16% to gross state product and 1 in 5 jobs. Agriculture is a more significant contributor to the Tasmanian economy than it is in any other state with the Australian average being 12%. With this in mind it is clear that Tasmania needs to ensure that the agricultural base of the state remains competitive and profitable.

With this in mind the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is pleased to present this submission on the draft Regulatory Impact Statement for the National Framework for Non-urban Water Metering.

The TFGA believes that responsible management of Tasmania's water resources is essential for the agricultural sector to remain viable into the future. Consequently the TFGA supports the introduction of a standardised system for non-urban water metering across the country. However, in saying this, such a system must be reflective of the operating environment of the agricultural sector.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of this consultation period.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Swain.
President
Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association

1.0 About the TFGA – Roles and Function

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Associations' (TFGA) vision is to be the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. To this aim the TFGA currently has a membership of 3100 Tasmanian agricultural enterprises, which translates to 80% of enterprises within the Tasmanian agricultural sector. Consequently, there is no doubt that the TFGA is the peak representative organisation for the agricultural sector in Tasmania.

With its mission being to advance the development of Tasmanian primary industries the TFGA is committed to ensuring that the agriculture sector in Tasmania is profitable and sustainable. The TFGA is also committed to promoting the agricultural sectors' vital contribution to the environmental, social and economic fabric of Tasmania to all levels of government and the wider community.

Operationally the TFGA is divided into separate councils and committees that deal with each of the major commodity areas. Via this structure the organisation plays an active role in championing issues affecting the agricultural sector so that they are recognised by Government, industry and the wider community within decision-making process.

Looking forward, the TFGA will continue its commitment to representing Tasmania's agricultural sector by presenting innovative and progressive solutions to the issues affecting the agricultural sector in Tasmania.

Comments on the draft Regulatory Impact Statement for the National Framework for Non-urban Water Metering

1. The TFGA would like to compliment the Water Efficiency Division on preparing a document that is practical and provides workable solutions for the agricultural sector.
2. The TFGA is in support of Option 2 as outlined in the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.
3. The TFGA believes that the phasing in of accurate meters over a ten (10) year period is feasible if the state works with the agricultural sector to:
 - a) establish agreed priorities and protocols for meters to be upgraded, and
 - b) develops a user friendly process for the identified meters to be upgraded.
4. The TFGA believes that the compliance regime as outlined in section 5.2.5 is too onerous for farmers and potentially service providers in Tasmania. Further detail on the content of annual meter statement is required before farmers can determine the time and resources required to complete annual meter statements for relevant meters on their farm.