



## Chairman's Profile



David is married with three children and lives at Pipers River and has been farming for the past 30 years.

He is highly passionate about the Tasmanian meat industry, starting with one cow and now has a breeding herd of 200 Angus cattle and 400 sheep.

Having served his apprenticeship as a retail butcher, David moved into heavy industry where he spent a number of years before realising his dream of becoming a farmer.

David attained a diploma in agriculture which gave him the basic skills that have contributed to his success and allowed him to become a producer of quality Tasmanian beef and lambs.

As an extension to his operation, David decided to buy a butcher shop for downstream value adding and after realising that he had to focus on his core business of farming he sold the shop.

Not one to sit still, David became involved in agri politics and was appointed as Chairman of TFGA Meat Council back in 2003 with his current term expiring in April 2006. David was also appointed to the Board of Directors of TFGA. With his representative roles, David has been in the position to successfully pursue the many issues that face the Tasmanian and Australian meat industries.

**Commodity Chairman:**  
**Executive Officer:**

**David Byard**

**Ian Martin (current)**

**Nick Steel (from March 2005 to September 2005)**

**Michael Horne (to March 2005)**

The Tasmanian red meat industry has again experienced good seasons across most of the State, coupled with good livestock prices especially for early spring lambs. Key commodity focuses during the year included the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), live sheep exports, marketing and programs to assist red meat producers.

### Securing Live Sheep Exports

The cessation of live sheep exports to the Saudi Arabia market cost the Australian sheep industry heavily in 2004. In 2005, the ongoing efforts of Government and relevant national representative bodies, including Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) and National Farmers' Federation, resulted in the re-commencement of the Saudi trade, which is an excellent outcome for producers. TFGA Meat Council has a representative on SCA.

In January 2006, Tasmanian graziers will provide approximately 73,000 sheep for live export to Kuwait and this shipment will have a farm-gate worth of about \$3.5 million. In preparation for this shipment TFGA Meat Council, together with Roberts, took a very pro-active media stance to ensure factually correct information was provided and that the wider community understood that live sheep export remained an important option for the State's farmers.

### Subsidised NLIS Ear Tags for Tasmanian Producers

TFGA Meat Council was successful in negotiating a reduction in the cost of NLIS devices for Tasmanian cattle producers.

### NLIS Funding Secured to Assist Producers

Significant lobbying by the Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) saw the Federal Government announce a \$20 million NLIS assistance package during 2005, \$13 million of which was provided directly to state/territory NLIS cattle implementation groups.

The Tasmanian Meat Advisory Committee/Tasmanian NLIS Advisory Committee was given responsibility for deciding how best to utilise the Tasmanian funding of \$285,000 (2.2% of national herd).

The Committee will submit a detailed business proposal to Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) in early 2006, who will forward the proposals to a national review committee for consideration.

Members' interests on the Committee are advocated by representatives from TFGA Meat Council, Dairy Council and Wool Council and TFGA meat Council has a representative on CCA.

### Red Meat Industry Forum

TFGA Meat Council continued to actively participate in the Red Meat Targets program, which is designed to increase producer returns by at least 10% over a five year period. The scope of the Red Meat Targets program was extended in 2005 to cover branding of Tasmanian meat, supply chain best practice and improved communication via an increased flow of information, following a forum to discuss the future of red meat production and processing in Tasmania. Representatives from TFGA Meat Council actively participated in this forum.

### Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust

A scholarship was established by the Trust in 2005, following generous support from industry that allowed funds to be made available to the University of Tasmania. The scholarship is designed to assist students who have an interest in the development of the beef and cattle industry. The inaugural scholarship was awarded in late 2005 to allow the successful candidate to take up the scholarship in 2006.

Ian Martin, the TFGA Meat Council Executive Officer, is the Chairman of the Beef Trust.

### National Activities

National bodies such as CCA, SCA and MLA continued to work hard on behalf of red meat producers in a wide variety of areas including NLIS, trade, research and development, securing of Q Fever vaccine and marketing and promotion. With the cattle transaction levy increasing on 1 January 2006 by \$1.50 per head, these additional funds will be directed to both domestic and export markets.