



MEDIA RELEASE

TFGA Says Legislative Changes in Right Direction

The Tasmanian Government appears to be taking on board the real concerns of farmers on native vegetation regulations.

This is the view of Greg Bradfield, Chief Executive of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, in the wake of amendments made to threatened non forest native vegetation legislation tabled in parliament today.

"I understand that the amendments include provision for review of the status of individual vegetation types, for example native grasslands, on the Government's list of threatened communities."

"The TFGA has urged the State Government, from the date it foreshadowed its non forest vegetation protection legislation, to make absolutely sure that those vegetation types it lists as threatened deserve that tag."

"This is vitally important where there are to be severe restrictions on the ability of farmers to clear and convert vegetation types which are on the list."

"If farmers are to be constrained in how they can develop their land, we want to see solid justification."

"The impact on commercial farming must be taken into account before these vegetation types are labelled threatened, and restrictions imposed on their use."

"The Government appears now to be acknowledging the social and economic impacts of this legislation."

Mr Bradfield said that the TFGA has sought to work with Government to address problems where routine farm management is being hampered by native vegetation regulations. "We are pleased that the Government has been receptive to our approaches."

"The TFGA understands that the process by which the Government plans to review the status of vegetation communities to be listed, will contain provision for formal stakeholder input, and the TFGA looks forward to making such input."

ENDS

Date: 4 July 2006

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