



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION

Land Register Consultations Working Group
Foreign Investment and Trade Policy Division
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600



Dear Sir or Madam

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association welcomes the opportunity to respond to your consultation paper on developing a foreign ownership register for agricultural land.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. TFGA members are responsible for generating approximately 80% of the value created by the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

In 2009/10, the farm gate value of agriculture and fishing was \$1.683 billion – which represented approximately 6% of the gross state product. More than seventeen thousand people are employed in farm related activities. Taking into account basic multiplier factors, this meant the farm dependent economy contributed c\$5.4 billion dollars (18%) to gross state product and created 1 in 6 jobs.

With our purpose being to promote the sustainable development of Tasmanian primary industries, the TFGA is committed to ensuring that the agriculture sector in Tasmania is profitable and sustainable. We are also committed to promoting the vital contribution the agricultural sector makes to the environmental, social and economic fabric of the Tasmanian community.

The TFGA is a member of the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and we support their comments in relation to developing a foreign ownership register for agricultural land.

It is important to support policy that encourages ongoing investment in Australian agriculture but also ensures the continuation of a transparent, market orientated and globally competitive industry.

A national foreign ownership register is a critical step in responding to the community concerns around investment in Australian agriculture. The establishment of a comprehensive register to document and review foreign investment in agriculture, land and water access entitlements will provide information that will allow a more informed debate on the issue. This should be linked directly to the FIRB process to help inform the national interest test and be used to inform and guide policy in the area of foreign investment in Australia to prevent or correct negative impacts on Australia's agricultural sector or the economy more broadly.

We would of course be pleased to discuss this submission further should this be required.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive Officer

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