

Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust Annual Report 2017/18

28th September 2018

Report on the activities of the Tasmanian Beef Trust to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Honourable Sarah Courtney for the 2017/18 financial year.

In September 2010, the Tasmanian Government decided to conduct a review of the Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust. After a long consultation period, the Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) trust amendment bill passed through parliament in November 2014 and the new Trustees were appointed in July 2015. The Trust now consists of five members, appointed by the Minister, two are beef producers and the other three are people with experience in the beef industry, at least one of whom has expertise in agricultural science and knowledge of contemporary beef research and development. The main changes apart from the two extra Trustee positions are that the Minister or their representative will be invited to attend all meetings, the Chair will be elected by the trustee members and more comprehensive annual reporting will be required. The composition of the Trustee members has remained unchanged since their appointment in 2015.

- Ms Donna Lucas – RM Consulting Group.
- Mr Andrew Thompson – Tasmanian Feedlot.
- Mr Rod Graham – Beef Producer.
- Mr Peter Ball – Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.
- Mr Brett Hall - Beef Producer.

Financial Performance

In summary, the closing net total of the Trust fund at 30th June 2018, was \$641,880.

Income from investments was \$17,974 and the total expenses were \$14,658.

The amount of income less expenditure was \$3,316 for the 2017/18 financial year. Statements of financial position, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows are attached for your information.

Beef Trust Scholarship

Since 2005 the Trust has also contributed \$60,000 to the University of Tasmania to form the basis of a perpetual Scholarship fund with a matched funding agreement. A new Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed in principle in 2016 between the Beef Trust and UTAS to clarify the terms and conditions of the partnership. The final draft of this document was signed by all parties on the 7th of July 2017.

Students that have successfully completed at least 1 year of study in Agricultural or Animal Science can apply for the annually awarded scholarship. Past recipients of the scholarship have performed extremely well in their academic pursuits. One of the main benefits it provides to students is that it allows them more time to focus on their studies rather than working part time to pay tuition fees.

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The Trustees decided to continue the scholarship with Ms. Olivia Cripps from Gawler. Olivia is in her third year of studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the Hobart campus. The Trustees believed that she has excelled in her studies and was the best candidate available for the scholarship. Her selection also reflected the Trustees desire that recipients have an existing connection to the Tasmanian beef cattle industry and intend to pursue a career related to this industry.

Projects

Since its inception the Tasmanian Beef Research and Development Trust has supported a wide variety of projects that include on farm activities such as animal health, performance, supplementation, identification, pasture establishment and assessment. It has also funded industry programs in areas such as quality control, training, education, infrastructure analysis and submissions through to focusing on the consumer with promotion, brand development and marketing. In fact, the Trust has funded 55 Research and Development projects in Tasmania since it commenced operating in 1991; this represents an investment of approximately \$232,000 in the states beef industry.

As per requirements under section 12 of the Act, **Reporting**, the following information is supplied.

Meetings: Trustee meetings held during the 2017/18 financial year;

Thursday 05/10/2017

Teleconference

Present: Brett Hall (Chair), Peter Ball, Donna Lucas & Andrew Thompson.

Apologies: Rod Graham

Government Rep: Heather Neate (DPIPWE)

Secretariat: Sam Wedgwood (TFGA)

Applications: The Trustees considered two project applications for funding. One project was evaluated as not meeting the standard for peer review. The other project was considered possibly suitable for peer review, subject to further information. It was therefore referred for further investigation by the secretariat & Chairman. After consulting with the proponents, they decided to withdraw the project as they had found other reasons for the stock losses.

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Projects:

There was one project funded by the Trust in this financial year that had a delayed commencement from the previous year:

RMCG, Tasmanian Pasture Situation, Outlook and Future RD&E Needs Analysis

One-year project duration. Total Budget \$21,920. Trust Funding, \$11,691.

The other project that was outstanding from the previous year was the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), *Mapping soil and climate variability for better decision making in farming and grazing systems in Tasmania*.

This was to be a 3-year project and part of a larger National program, conducted in conjunction with an ARC Linkage program in association with Sydney University. Unfortunately, the final funding agreements with other organisations were not forthcoming. Co-funded Research & Development projects have become more common across Australian research institutions. This does pose a challenge for funders such as the Trust as they have a longer development and operating period. They are also subject to change with so many different parties involved.

Total Project Budget \$753,000. Beef Trust contribution \$30,000 over 3 years.

Final project reports: The Trust received a final project report at the end of the RMCG project, *Tasmanian Pasture Situation, Outlook and Future RD&E Needs Analysis*. A copy of this report was previously provided and is included as an attachment for information.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association provides the necessary secretarial administration for the Tasmanian Beef Trust. This role is provided without charge to the Trust as a service to beef producer members of the TFGA. The financial administration of the Trust by TFGA is now subject to an annual service charge to the Trust.

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Hall

Chairman, Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust

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