

## **Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust Annual Report 2018/19**

26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Report on the activities of the Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Honourable Guy Barnett, for the 2018/19 financial year.**

**Summary: The Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust is in a sound financial position and is able to meet its obligations. In the 2018/19 year the perpetual student scholarship sponsored by the Trust was awarded. No new projects were approved for funding. Reviews of past projects and the Trust's funding and application processes are to be undertaken in the 2019/20 year by the members of the Trust supported by the Trust Secretariat.**

### **The Trust:**

In September 2010, the Tasmanian Government commenced 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 current members of the Trust were appointed in July 2015.

The Trust consists of five members, appointed by the Minister, two of whom are beef producers and three who 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 arising from the review were two additional member positions, that the Minister or their representative will be invited to attend all meetings, that the Chair will be elected by the Trust members and more comprehensive annual reporting will be required. The Trust membership has remained unchanged since appointment in 2015 and comprises:

- 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 value of the Trust funds at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, was \$658,125. Income from investments was \$19,622 and total expenses were \$3,377.

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## **PO Box 881 LAUNCESTON TASMANIA 7250**

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The amount of income less expenditure was \$16,245 for the 2018/19 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 contributed a total of \$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 was 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 the scholarship provides to students is that it allows them more time to focus on their studies rather than working part time to pay tuition fees.

In this reporting period the Trust awarded the scholarship to Ms. Kirrily French. Kirrily is in her second year of studying a Bachelor of Applied Science (AgriBusiness) at the Hobart campus. The Trust members believed Kirrily to be the best candidate available for the scholarship and her selection also reflected the Trust members desire that recipients have a connection to the Tasmanian beef cattle industry and/or intend to pursue a career related to this industry. A note of thanks from the scholarship recipient is attached, supporting some of the contentions outlined above.

### **Projects**

Since its inception the Tasmanian Beef Industry (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 state's beef industry.

In the 2018/19 year however no new projects were funded by the Trust, as per the considerations of the Trust members.

Regarding the requirements of section 12 of the Act, **Reporting**, the following information is supplied.

**Meetings:** Three Trust meetings were held during the 2018/19 financial year; comprising one in-person meeting and two meetings by teleconference.

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**(1) Thursday 11/10/2018**

### **AGM and in-person meeting Campbell Town**

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

**Government Rep:** Sam Wedgewood (DPIPWE)

**Secretariat:** Raylene Garwood (TFGA)

**(2) Friday 26/04/2019**

### **Teleconference**

**Present:** Peter Ball (Chair), Brett Hall & Rod Graham.

**Apologies:** Donna Lucas, Andrew Thompson, Heather Neate (DPIPWE)

**Secretariat:** Kylie Donaghy (TFGA)

**(3) Friday 21/06/2019**

### **Teleconference**

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

**Government Rep:** Heather Neate (DPIPWE)

**Secretariat:** Kylie Donaghy (TFGA)

**Applications:** The Trust received only one application for project funding in the 2018/19 year. This application was centred on infrastructure improvement within an existing small business.

The application, whilst strong on social licence and animal welfare considerations, was found to be outside the RD&E objectives of the Trust. It was noted that whilst the Act allows the Trust some flexibility (to further an activity incidental to a purpose referred to in the Act), this application was not judged to be of sufficient merit to exercise that discretion. The application was not endorsed by the members of the Trust.

### **Projects:**

Since no further applications for Trust funding were received, there were no projects approved for funding in the 2018/19 year. Additionally, there were no other current or ongoing projects to report on.

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**Final project reports:** The Trust had no final project reports due or outstanding within this reporting period.

### **Review of past projects and project funding process:**

It is currently the intention of the Trust to review past projects and the project application and funding processes, with the purpose of seeking to facilitate applications that best meet the Trust objectives and translate into funding investments that make good use of the Industry resource the Trust represents. The Trust will seek to report on the outcomes of this review in the forthcoming reporting year.

As per advice previously provided it is noted that the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association provides the necessary secretarial administration for the Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) 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 however subject to an annual service charge to the Trust.

Yours Sincerely,



Peter Ball

**Chair, Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) Trust**

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