

**TASMANIAN BEEF INDUSTRY (Research and Development) TRUST.**  
**PO Box 881 LAUNCESTON TASMANIA 7250**

28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Report on the activities of the Tasmanian Beef Trust to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Honourable Jeremy Page Rockliff for the 2015/2016 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 2104 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 newly elected chairman Brett Hall has served as a Trustee for the past eight years and the other representatives are:

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

The review identified that broader industry representation and increasing the level of reporting as areas that could be improved. The financial management of the Beef Trust has been noted as being very sound, in fact even through the global financial crisis; the fund's investments have remained secure and profitable. The closing total for the Trust fund at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 was \$622,742 and the amount of income less expenditure was \$18,859 for the 2015/16 financial year. Statements of financial position, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows are attached for your information.

The Tasmanian Beef Research and Development Trust have 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 54 Research and Development projects in Tasmania since it commenced operating in 1991; this represents an investment of approximately \$221,000 in the states beef industry.

Since 2005 the Trust has also contributed \$60,000 to the University of Tasmania to form the basis of a perpetual Scholarship in a matched funding agreement. A new Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed in 2016 between the Beef Trust and UTAS to clarify the terms and conditions of the partnership. Second year students studying 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. The Trustees decided not to award the scholarship this year as the applicants did not meet the desired qualification of having an existing connection to the Tasmanian beef cattle industry and/or intend to pursue a career related to this industry.

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

- a. **Meetings:** Three Trustee meetings were held during the 2015/2016 financial year;

28th August 2015

Held at TFGA House, Launceston

Present: Brett Hall, Peter Ball, Donna Lucas, Rod Graham and Andrew Thompson

Apologies: Nil

Guests: Heather Neate, DPIPWE (Representing the Minister)

Secretariat: Nick Steel and Sam Wedgwood (TFGA)

23rd October 2015

Teleconference.

Present: Brett Hall (chair), Donna Lucas, Andrew Thompson and Rod Graham

Apologies: Peter Ball

Secretariat: Sam Wedgwood and Nick Steel (TFGA)

21st December 2015

Held at TFGA office, Launceston

Present: Brett Hall (chair), Donna Lucas, Peter Ball

Apologies: Rod Graham and Andrew Thompson

Guests: Heather Neate DPIPWE (Representing the Minister)

Secretariat: Sam Wedgwood (TFGA)

- b. **Applications:** The Trust received 3 project applications for funding. Two of these were identified as meeting the Trust objectives so they were referred to industry experts for peer review.
- c. **Projects:** Based on the recommendations from the peer reviews, the Trustees decided not to fund any projects this financial year.
- d. **Final project reports:** No final reports were received as no projects reached conclusion.

The Trust has recently been notified by DPIPW (who were granted Trust funding in the 2014/15 financial year) that their project about investigating the occurrence of Venereal Disease transfer in cattle had reached a stage where it could be suitably concluded. The Trust has therefore formally requested a final report and will forward a copy to the Minister upon its receipt.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association provides the necessary secretarial and financial administration support for the Tasmanian Beef Trust. This role is provided without charge to the Trust as a service to beef producer members of the TFGA. A special thank you to the TFGA's Policy Advisor, Mr. Sam Wedgewood for all his work during this time to ensure that the new Trust structure is operating smoothly.

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Hall

Chairman, Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust

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