



Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group Ltd

ABN 39 009 590 783 · Address: PO Box 210, LONGFORD TAS 7301

Paul Morris
First Assistant Secretary
Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
GPO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600

Subject: Response to Issues Paper
Reference: Meeting with Writing Team
9.30am Wednesday 19 February, Devonport. Tasmania

Introduction:

The Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group Limited was formed in 1989. It is the only single body in the State representing intensive agriculture, fresh and processed food producers and associated service industries. The Group is entirely funded from member contributions and is in a unique position as it represents the full range of primary, secondary and related activities in the agriculture and forestry industries. No other specialist industry body has this vertical integration of membership. This allows for issues facing industry to be addressed by the Board who have access, with-in its own membership, to expertise from the continuum of growing, processing, marketing and their related industry services.

TAPG appreciates the opportunity to continue its engagement with this matter following the Devonport discussions. We regard this as a high priority policy area for resolution by government and applaud the effort already made to consult widely through the mechanism of the regional meetings such as the one we attended.

Due to the sectoral nature of our Board's composition, TAPG has been able to commission responses from within its elected Directors that collectively represent leadership, expertise and experience across the entire spectrum of the industry supply chain including:

- Representation from Plantation Forestry;
- Representation from Primary Industry including Poppy Growing and Processing as well as Agri-business marketing;
- Representation from Agri-business Companies;
- Representation from specialised Agricultural Advisory Companies;
- Representation from International Vegetable Processing Companies;
- Representative from the Fresh Vegetable sector;
- Representation from specialised Rural Banking; and
- Experienced Scientific Researchers and Collators.

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- Extension, promotion of, and training in, current technological services in areas such as weather prediction, soil monitoring, soil management and related matters to underpin farm management decision making including crop choice; and
- Review and modernise National Highway policy such that the well- chronicled issues surrounding Bass Strait are resolved in a manner that improves competitiveness for Tasmania in both national and international markets.

Conclusion:

The points listed above are considered by our Board to represent a summary statement that we would be hoping to see reflected in the Green Paper due for release later this year.

Directors look forward to scrutinising this document when it becomes available and will take the opportunity for more in-depth analysis and feedback that the next step in the consultation process provides.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Wilson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Wilson
Chairman
16 April, 2014