

Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association

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Denise McIntyre
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Proposed Legislative Amendments, Roads and Jetties Amendment Bill

Dear Denise McIntyre

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed amendments to the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935* - relating to entry onto land for road-related purposes, and management of vegetation and other hazards on the State road network.

As previously stated in correspondence provided by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) in February 2021 by then CEO Peter Skillern, the TFGA acknowledges and appreciates the requirement for management and development of the State's road network.

Whilst acknowledging matters raised and addressed in your most current correspondence, the TFGA continue to have significant concerns regarding elements of the proposed amendments.

Of major concern is the remaining inclusion that the Minister may direct an owner or occupier to undertake an action under Section 39. This inclusion has the potential to cause a substantial economic and operational impost on landholders and is explicitly NOT supported by the TFGA.

Whilst it is noted that the Department through policy intends to continue with the preferred approach of negotiation when access to land is being sought, the TFGA in line with contemporary best practice would seek to have this process detailed within the proposed legislative changes along with the minimum notice period of seven (7) days for authorised persons to give notice to the owner and occupier increased to a minimum of twenty eight (28) days and the removal of the ambiguous inclusion "(or within such other prescribed period)". Where immediate action needs to be taken to deal with immediate risk to the safety of road users, Section 39 Subsection (5) is adequate.

Regarding updating of guidance documentation and the provision of ongoing education for consultants and contractors on the protocols that apply when access onto land has been negotiated, TFGA welcome working with the Department.

Issues such as but not limited to infrastructure security, stock management, and biosecurity are of critical importance. Consequences of mismanagement have the potential to impact Tasmania's agricultural sector seriously and destructively – a sector that currently contributes more than \$2 billion in farmgate value to the Tasmanian economy. Poor or inadequate biosecurity practices in particular can have a devastating and long-lasting impact on agriculture leading to production losses, a rise in production costs, and a loss of market access.

In closing, the TFGA does not oppose improved management and development of the State's road network. However, it is imperative that a respectful and collaborative approach be taken to these undertakings and that that approach be detailed appropriately within relevant legislation as opposed to simply policy.

Kind Regards,



John McKew

CEO