



BOARD MEETING MEMBER UPDATE

Held on 24 May 2023

Board Matters

- Voice to Parliament:** The TFGA Board endorsed the adoption of the position taken by the National Farmers Federation that the Voice to Parliament is an important matter that individuals need to consider carefully before making a decision on how they want to personally vote on the referendum. As such the TFGA will not be taking a formal position on the Voice to Parliament unless an issue arises that directly impacts on members farming operations.
- Transmission Lines Acquisition:** The Board had an in-depth discussion regarding the proposed North West Transmission Development project and the impact on farming properties. This is a complex, rapidly changing issue as different states provide updated compensation frameworks (with Queensland most recently coming out with compensation of up to \$300,000/km for eligible transmission projects). The clear focus on the TFGA is on getting the best outcome for our impacted members, whether this is in terms of appropriate compensation or type of transmission lines constructed.
- Longford Redevelopment:** The board received an update on the new Longford office, with tenders due to close this week to undertake the redevelopment of historic Longford Tabernacle to provide a new home for the TFGA in a rural community. This is an exciting milestone in this project and will allow the TFGA to continue to progress towards a planned move late in 2023.
- Water Committee:** The Board endorsed a resolution from the Water Committee that compulsory acquisition should only be an option when all commercial options have been exhausted by project proponents and that any acquisition should also have reference to improved land value due to broader benefits of infrastructure works. This need to work through commercial options is reflective of the often more collaborative approach of private infrastructure developments that do not have access to compulsory acquisition across multiple infrastructure sectors.
- Rural Housing and Education:** The board discussed the issues of rural education and housing, and how these issues are continuing to impact on the long-term access to labour for the rural industry. Key recommendations out of these discussions included investigating how the need for improved planning processes for accommodation could be incorporated into submissions into the local government review and the need to drive a collaborative approach to ensuring agricultural education is a priority at all levels of education.