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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Submission- Agriculture and Land Sectoral Discussion Paper

Tasmanian farmers, like those across the country, are dealing with the threat of climate change to the productivity and sustainability of the agricultural sector. As an island state, our agricultural industry is heavily reliant on export and will be impacted by any emissions reduction legislation in this space. While farmers are highly exposed to the impacts of climate change, we also have a great opportunity to adapt and succeed into the future.

As farmers we are acutely aware of the importance of our role in reducing emissions and therefore have continued to adopt new emission reduction strategies. Reducing emissions in agriculture will always be challenging as food and fibre is difficult to produce with zero emissions however as farmers, we are very aware of our contribution to emissions. Many farmers are not happy with enforcing regulatory-based approaches to control emissions and like to have flexibility and choice in how they reduce emissions on their own properties.

It is key that the Government continues to work collaboratively with farmers and land managers to ensure that any approaches developed to reduce emissions do not disadvantage farmers. There are many ways for farmers to mitigate climate change without large financial costs or time input and many farmers have already adopted such

measures to reduce their emissions. It is still important for the Government to recognise that different farmers will be at very different stages of emissions reduction which will need to be considered.

Serious understanding and consideration should be given to those farmers who are already carbon negative or net carbon sequesters for example by taking a whole farm approach, currently not available, including existing native and introduced pasture stands that are already maintained for food store and carbon sequestration purposes. Such properties must be able to meet and obtain official and commercial certification or audit requirements.

There are also several general key areas that the Government could support to develop climate change mitigation across the country's agricultural industry:

Investment

Supporting investment that promotes climate-positive and nature-positive landscapes, adoption of new technologies and sustainable practices. This investment should be accessible to and support small and medium scale farmers who make up a significant percentage of Tasmania's agricultural industry. This group of farmers should not be left behind in any developing emission reduction strategies.

Research and Innovation

Continue to encourage and invest in research and innovation to develop sustainable farming practices, including precision agriculture, agroforestry, and the use of advanced technologies that reduce carbon footprints. The areas for research and investment should be discussed with farmers and land managers who have firsthand knowledge of where funds should be allocated for the best results.

Renewable Energy Integration

Promote the adoption of renewable energy technologies and sources in agriculture, such as solar and wind power, to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and decrease emissions associated with energy consumption. The Government's continued financial investment in this space is crucial to support farmers through energy transitions.

Carbon Sequestration

Support initiatives for soil carbon sequestration through improved land management practices that contribute both to emissions reduction and soil health. Cover cropping, grazing management, agroforestry and methane-reducing feed supplements are all successful ways of sequestering carbon however there remains cost and implementation barriers for farmers. Support to make these methods more accessible and cost effective at the farm gate level will help increase uptake among farmers.

Sustainable Practices - investment, knowledge sharing, capacity building

Support the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices, such as precision farming, organic farming, and reduced tillage, can enhance efficiency, reduce emissions, and promote environmental sustainability. It is important that farmers have access to suitable information so they can make the best decisions for them and their property.

Climate-Resilient Crops

Develop and adopt climate-resilient crop varieties can help agriculture adapt to changing climatic conditions, ensuring food security in the face of climate-related challenges.

Education and Training

Implement educational programs and training for farmers on sustainable practices, emphasising the economic benefits of transitioning to environmentally friendly methods.

Government Incentives

Establish financial incentives, subsidies, and tax breaks for farmers who adopt and implement sustainable practices, creating a supportive framework for the transition to net-zero emissions. These incentives should be consistent across the board to limit confusion and administrative burdens.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Facilitate collaboration between government agencies, agricultural organisations, research institutions, and private enterprises to develop comprehensive strategies for achieving net-zero emissions in the agricultural sector.

Monitoring and Reporting

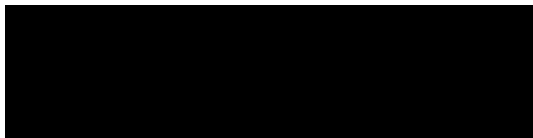
Implement a robust monitoring and reporting system to track the progress of emissions reduction in the agricultural sector, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Conclusion

As farmers, there is no denying we have an important role to play in reducing emissions. We believe our intimate knowledge of the land we farm places us in the best position to reduce emissions provided we continue to have access to the necessary resources and financial, regulatory, and administrative burdens are removed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Signed:

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Position: Director and CEO

Connorville Station Pty Ltd