

15 December 2021

Farmsafe Australia Elects New Chair and Committee

Farmsafe Australia recently elected a new Chair and Committee at their 2021 Annual General Meeting. It's a bold new direction for the organisation, with 18 months left in the revitalisation project, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under the National Farm Safety Education Fund.

Felicity Richards, former President of Primary Employers Tasmania, has been elected as the new Chair. Ms Richards comes to the position with a strong agricultural background as well as a skillset that includes law, regulatory policy and governance. She has extensive farm business management experience across a range of enterprises including wool, beef, lamb and cropping.

"As a farm business owner, I understand the importance of work, health and safety practices to the success of my farm. However, as a farmer myself, the wife of a farmer and the mother of potential future farmers, I know that WHS practice is about something even more important than the business, it's about protecting the people that I care about," she said. "I am committed to making sure that we, as an organisation, continue to help Australian farmers improve the safety on their farms and the safety of their processes and procedures."

Dr Richard Franklin of James Cook University has been elected to the position of Deputy Chair. Dr Franklin has a long history with Farmsafe Australia, and his expertise in agricultural work, health and safety practices and research is highly valued on the Executive Committee.

"I look forward to working with our Australian farmers and rural communities to find evidence-based solutions for WHS issues that are continuing to take the lives and livelihoods of our farmers. We know that agriculture consistently ranks amongst the most dangerous industries to work in and we need to put our collective efforts into driving down the incidence of injury and death on Australian farms." Dr Franklin said.

Members also elected representatives from the National Farmers Federation, AgHealth Australia, NSW Farmers, the Victorian Farmers' Federation, AgForce Queensland Farmers, and Safe Farms WA to fill the remaining positions of the Executive and Committee.

Farewell to Outgoing Chair, Charles Armstrong

Since 2011, Charles Armstrong has headed up Farmsafe Australia and provided strong leadership and passion for farmers' safety and wellbeing during an increasingly tough time for the organisation. He was a staunch advocate for quad bike safety and was pleased to see the introduction of the recent safety standards prior to stepping down. His retirement is well deserved and the Farmsafe Committee, and membership wish him all the best with his future endeavors.

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