

TASMANIAN BEEF INDUSTRY (Research and Development) TRUST.

PO Box 881 LAUNCESTON TASMANIA 7250

29th September 2017

Report on the activities of the Tasmanian Beef Trust to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, the Honourable Jeremy Page Rockliff for the 2016/17 financial year.

In September 2010, the Tasmanian Government decided to conduct a review of the Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust. After a long consultation period, the Tasmanian Beef Industry (Research and Development) trust amendment bill passed through parliament in November 2014 and the new Trustees were appointed in July 2015. The Trust now consists of five members, appointed by the Minister, two are beef producers and the other three are people with experience in the beef industry, at least one of whom has expertise in agricultural science and knowledge of contemporary beef research and development. The main changes apart from the two extra Trustee positions are that the Minister or their representative will be invited to attend all meetings, the Chair will be elected by the trustee members and more comprehensive annual reporting will be required. The composition of the Trustee members has remained unchanged from the previous financial year.

- Ms Donna Lucas – RM Consulting Group.
- Mr Andrew Thompson – Tasmanian Feedlot.
- Mr Rod Graham – Beef Producer.
- Mr Peter Ball – Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.
- Mr Brett Hall - Beef Producer.

Financial Performance

In summary, the closing total of the Trust fund at 30th June 2017 was \$639,708.

Income from investments was \$18, 310 and the total expenses were \$2,488.

The amount of income less expenditure was \$15, 822 for the 2016/17 financial year. Statements of financial position, comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows are attached for your information.

Beef Trust Scholarship

Since 2005 the Trust has also contributed \$60,000 to the University of Tasmania to form the basis of a perpetual Scholarship fund with a matched funding agreement. A new Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed in principle in 2016 between the Beef Trust and UTAS to clarify the terms and conditions of the partnership. The final draft of this document was signed by all parties on the 7th of July 2017.

Second year students studying Agricultural or Animal Science can apply for the annually awarded scholarship. Past recipients of the scholarship have performed extremely well in their academic pursuits. One of the main benefits it provides to students is that it allows them more time to focus on their studies rather than working part time to pay tuition fees.

The Trustees decided to award the scholarship this year to Ms. Olivia Cripps from Gawler. Olivia is studying a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the Hobart campus. The Trustees believed that she was an excellent candidate and reflected the Trustees desire that recipients have an existing connection to the Tasmanian beef cattle industry and intend to pursue a career related to this industry.

Projects

Since its inception the Tasmanian Beef Research and Development Trust has supported a wide variety of projects that include on farm activities such as animal health, performance, supplementation, identification, pasture establishment and assessment. It has also funded industry programs in areas such as quality control, training, education, infrastructure analysis and submissions through to focusing on the consumer with promotion, brand development and marketing. In fact, the Trust has funded 54 Research and Development projects in Tasmania since it commenced operating in 1991; this represents an investment of approximately \$221,000 in the states beef industry.

Although two projects were approved for funding this financial year by the Trustees no funds have been transferred to the successful applicants as the projects have not commenced in this financial period. (see project details in section c below)

As per requirements under section 12 of the Act, **Reporting**, the following information is supplied.

- a. **Meetings:** Trustee meetings were held during the 2016/17 financial year;

Tuesday 27th September 2016

Teleconference.

Present: Brett Hall (chair), Peter Ball, Donna Lucas, Rod Graham.

Apologies: Andrew Thompson

Guests: Robin Thompson (DPIPWE Representing the Minister)

Secretariat: Sam Wedgwood (TFGA)

Friday 2nd December 2016

Teleconference.

Present: Brett Hall (chair), Donna Lucas, Andrew Thompson, Rod Graham and Peter Ball

Guests: Robin Thompson (DPIPWE Representing the Minister) and Shirralea Holman (TFGA Finance Officer)

Secretariat: Sam Wedgwood and Ellen Davis

Tuesday 20th December 2016

Teleconference.

Trustees: Brett Hall (chair), Rod Graham, Andrew Thompson and Peter Ball

Guests: Robin Thompson (DPIPWE Representing the Minister)

Secretariat: Sam Wedgwood and Ellen Davis

Apologies: Donna Lucas (Absent due to the agenda of the meeting)

- b. **Applications:** The Trust received eight project applications for funding. Three of these applications were identified as meeting the Trust objectives so they were referred to relevant industry experts for peer review. Two projects were received after the application closing date and they were advised to resubmit them for consideration in 2017/18.
- c. **Projects:** Based on the positive recommendations from the peer reviews, the Trustees decided to approve two of the three reviewed projects for funding.
 - 1. Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), *Mapping soil and climate variability for better decision making in farming and grazing systems in Tasmania*. Three-year project that is to be part of a larger National program. To be conducted in conjunction with an ARC Linkage program in association with Sydney University. Subject to final funding agreements being finalised for the stated ARC program. Total Project Budget \$753,000. Beef Trust contribution \$30,000 over 3 years.
 - 2. RMCG, *Tasmanian Pasture Situation, Outlook and Future RD&E Needs Analysis* One-year project duration. Total Budget \$21,920. Trust Funding, \$10,960.
- d. **Final project reports:** The Trust has recently received a final project report from DPIPWE (who were granted Trust funding in the 2014/15 financial year) from their project titled 'A pilot study on Vibriosis and Trichomoniasis in Tasmanian Cattle Herds' which investigated the occurrence of the sexual transfer of those diseases between cattle. A copy of this final report is also attached for your information.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association provides the necessary secretarial and financial administration support for the Tasmanian Beef Trust. This role is provided without charge to the Trust as a service to beef producer members of the TFGA. A special thank you to the TGFA's Policy Advisor, Mr. Sam Wedgewood for all his diligent work during this time to ensure that the Trust is operating efficiently.

Yours Sincerely,

Brett Hall

Chairman, Tasmanian Beef Industry Trust

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