



Media Alert

Call for commitment on sustainable rural communities

Three of the State's key rural organisations have called for a united approach to building more sustainable farming and rural communities in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), Rural Alive and Well (RAW) and Rural Business Tasmania (RBT) said that, in this election year, all State political parties must commit to a holistic strategy to ensure liveable and sustainable rural communities in Tasmania.

TFGA CEO Peter Skillern said that the services provided by RBT and RAW, as well as the TFGA, were integral to ensuring the on-going profitability of the agricultural sector and the well-being of rural communities.

"On-going government support for these organisations is imperative, both for the personal well-being of the farmers concerned and the sector more broadly," Mr Skillern said.

RAW CEO Liz Little said that sustainable rural communities needed a sense of future.

"Agricultural industries in Tasmania are now the State's primary income source. We need to start talking about the well-being and sustainability of the communities and families that are producing that wealth. We need to be able to retain young people in rural communities to have a viable future" Ms Little said.

RBT CEO Elizabeth Skirving echoed that sentiment.

"We need achievable goals to build profitable enterprises. We should review the current culture and thinking, and provide support so community can re-energise to innovate and adapt to new paradigms." Ms Skirving said.

Mr Skillern said: "By working together, we can achieve a great deal and make steps towards maximising the sector while ensuring that those that work within the sector are healthy and prosperous."

The three organisations called on all political parties and state election candidates to

publicly outline their commitment to sustainable rural communities in the lead up to the forthcoming state election.

“To achieve the goals laid out in Agrivision 2050 investment must be community led and cover emotional and physical health, infrastructure and economic support mechanisms,” Mr Skillern said.

WHAT: The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA), Rural Alive and Well (RAW) and Rural Business Tasmania (RBT) calling on all political parties and state election candidates to publicly outline their commitment to sustainable rural communities in the lead up to the forthcoming state election.

WHERE: Quercus Park, Agfest. Site 605, Sixth Avenue.

WHEN: Thursday, May 4. 1.30pm

INTERVIEWEES AVAILABLE: TFGA CEO Peter Skillern, RAW CEO Liz Little and RBT CEO Elizabeth Skirving.

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