



Water Committee Meeting Communique

Held on 16 October 2023

The Committee discussed:

1. The Chair (Malcolm) provided an update on a number of matters, notably feedback on the commentary provided by the TFGA on the draft Water Miscellaneous Amendments (Delegation and Industrial Water Supply) Bill 2023.

Many of the suggestions put forward by the TFGA appear to have been accepted by the Department, notably suggestions regarding amendments to the act to permit the use of water for the industrial production of hydrogen and that industrial use should not be prioritised over use for irrigation;

2. Mike Badcock gave an update on the NFF Water Committee, notably current issues around water buybacks by the Federal Labor Government proceeding within the Murray Darling Basin;
3. Ian (President TFGA) provided an update on Board matters, notably the good progress being made with the new Longford office and the process for engaging a new CEO;
4. Alastair (CEO) provided an update on mineral exploration issues in connection with rare earth minerals exploration activities within Northern Tasmania;
5. Tasmanian Irrigation (Andrew Kneebone – CEO; David Skipper – COO; and Jacob Gerke – Programme Manager) attended and discussed a number of matters including:
 - providing an update on the Tamar and Greater South Eastern Schemes. In short both schemes are currently undersubscribed and if the schemes are to get away then more water sales are required.
 - The TFGA will consider how it might assist with the water sales process.
 - discussed the 50% water allocation for the Southern Highlands scheme this year, and that the option for the purchase of additional water out of Great Lake for \$300/ML was put to irrigators but declined.
 - discussed the problems being encountered with foreshadowed price increases to the South East Irrigation Stage 2 and 3 water supplied by TasWater through the Bryn Estyn plant – in short an increase from \$200/ML to \$1,200/ML has been foreshadowed over the next three years – A presentation was given by Andrew Kneebone to members of the TFGA on 29 September 2023.

Malcolm Green

Chair Water Committee