

Media Release



Wednesday 22 May 2019

Tools launched to help farmers negotiate with mining explorers

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) today welcomes the trial of new voluntary land access tools to help landholders negotiate land access with mining explorers.

“Farming and mining are both vital for the Victorian economy and rural employment. However, it’s critical that support is available to help landholders work with explorers, and that explorers better understand how to minimise impacts on farms,” said Mr David Jochinke, VFF President.

“I thank the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions for working with the VFF as a key stakeholder, and for being willing to trial this new, consultative approach to land access.

“With clear and open communication and a mutual understanding of needs, farming and mining can co-exist and the whole community can benefit. The new guide provides clear guidance on issues such as setting farm biosecurity protocols, managing impacts on crops, compensation, and dispute resolution.

“It is important for farmers to understand that before an explorer can access your land, you must provide consent. I encourage all farmers and landholders to read the new guide to commercial consent agreements before they begin discussing land access with explorers.

“The VFF will continue to identify opportunities to improve mining regulation in Victoria. We encourage all primary industries to consider how the different sectors can work together for mutual benefit of each party and regional communities,” said Mr Jochinke.

The landholder tools can be found at www.earthresources.vic.gov.au/landaccess

ENDS

Media Contacts:

David Jochinke, VFF President, 0427 834 524

Heather Smillie, VFF Stakeholder, Media & Communications Officer, 0400 874 589

About the VFF

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is dedicated to representing the interests of farmers and making a positive difference to their businesses and communities. We strive to create an environment for our members, our farmers, that enables profitable, safe, sustainable production to ensure an enduring social licence in a community that respects and values the sector.