



Media Release

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Promises made, time to Deliver for Agriculture

The Victorian Farmers Federation congratulates the Andrews Government on its re-election, particularly newly appointed Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries who will sit in Parliament for the first time today.

“Throughout our election campaign, the Victorian Farmers Federation made it clear to all candidates what is required of them to deliver for agriculture and to strengthen Victoria’s \$14 billion industry. The dust has settled on the election, and now it’s time for the Government to deliver on its promises with a focus on the first 100 days,” said Mr David Jochinke, Victorian Farmers Federation President.

“We look forward to the Government moving quickly to commence the promised review of rural rates. We believe this should be completed by mid-2019 so the review recommendations can be implemented as soon as possible.

“We understand there are multiple reasons for the current inequity in the rates system, but we are looking for solutions for our farmers who want to make a fair and reasonable contribution to support their rural communities.

“We welcome the Andrews Government’s commitment to driving a safety culture on Victorian farms and eliminate on-farm accidents and deaths. The VFF looks forward to partnering with government to ensure a strong on-farm focus in the first 100 days.

“The VFF will continue to pursue solutions to ongoing and unacceptable issues across rural and regional Victoria, all of which were raised during our election campaign. Country Victorians deserve fit for purpose roads, reliable telecommunications, dedicated agriculture police officers to reduce escalating rural crime and science-based animal welfare regulations that recognise the care and stewardship farmers undertake.

“I would like to congratulate the newly appointed Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes. Minister Symes has a reputation as a pragmatic thinker and we look forward to working closely with her and her team on key issues of importance, including raising the profile of farmers and food production in the Victorian Parliament.

“I also want to extend my gratitude to Jaala Pulford for her work as Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development over the last four years. Minister Pulford was engaged, willing to listen, and hardworking. I wish Minister Pulford all the best in her new portfolios, many of which are also of great interest to our members so I am sure we will continue to cross paths,” said Mr Jochinke.

Media Contacts:

David Jochinke, Victorian Farmers Federation President, 0427 834 524

Heather Smillie, Stakeholder Policy & Advocacy 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.