



Policy Council Communique

Meeting 175

9 March 2022

The VFF Policy Council met on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at Farrer House. Council discussed issues including farm crime, low emission vehicles, right to repair, traditional owner water, animal welfare, the recent ecosystem decline parliamentary inquiry and other operational matters.

Farm & Rural Crime Policy

Policy Council adopted a new Farm and Rural Crime Policy as recommended by the VFF Farm Business Committee. The new policy will inform VFF's advocacy for improved police and community response to farm and rural crime including stock theft, property damage and trespass. The policy statement can be [viewed on the VFF website](#).

Low Emission Vehicles

Policy Council approved a new Low Emission Vehicles Policy as recommended by the VFF Transport and Infrastructure Committee. The new policy aims to ensure future regulation is fit for purpose and reflects the unique requirements of agriculture and operating in remote and regional areas. The policy statement can be [viewed on the VFF website](#).

Right to Repair Policy

Policy Council adopted a new Agricultural Machinery Right to Repair policy as recommended by the VFF Transport and Infrastructure Committee. The new policy will inform VFF's advocacy for greater competition and consumer protections within the agricultural machinery market. The policy statement can be [viewed on the VFF website](#).

Water for Traditional Owners Policy

Policy Council adopted a new Traditional Owner Water policy as recommended by the VFF Water Council. The policy will inform VFF advocacy in response to the Victorian Government policy to provide water to traditional owner groups and a desire among traditional owner groups to manage water for cultural purposes. The policy statement can be [viewed on the VFF website](#).

Animal Welfare

Policy Council received an update regarding the development of Victoria's new animal care and protection act and the VFF's animal welfare policy. A draft policy is currently under the development by the VFF Farming Systems Committee.

Ecosystem Decline

Policy Council received an update regarding the VFF response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline. The VFF holds concerns regarding a number of the inquiry recommendations and will be advocating that the Victorian Government do not support those of concern.

Committee Appointments

Policy Council appointed Daniel Meade as the Chair of the Farm Business Committee and Brendan Maher as a member of the Transport and Infrastructure committee.