

22 June 2018



Please find attached the VFF submission in support of the NFF submission prepared in conjunction with state farming organisations and agricultural industry groups.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Jochinke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Jochinke
President
Victorian Farmers Federation

Submission

An independent review of interactions between the EPBC Act and the agriculture sector

Victorian Farmers – Our Place in Victoria



Victorian Farmers Federation

Making Victorian farmers lives better; enhancing Victoria's future.

MISSION: A community of farmers creating a profitable, sustainable and socially responsible agricultural industry connecting with all Victorians.

The Victorian Farmers Federation is an active, powerful lobby group dedicated to the interests of farmers and making a difference to communities. With a strong record of successful political and industry advocacy and leadership, the VFF has generated substantial benefits for the agriculture sector since its formation in 1979.

Even though farming has its own natural challenges from droughts, bushfires and floods, our members have collectively earned the VFF a reputation as a respected leader, strong voice and lobbyist.

The VFF consists of eight commodity groups; dairy (United Dairyfarmers of Victoria), livestock, grains, horticulture, chicken meat, eggs and pigs, and Flowers Victoria – and expert committees representing; water, land management, agricultural and veterinarian chemicals, farm business and rural development and workplace relations.

VFF members lead these groups and committees with the support of Melbourne and regionally based staff. As a team, we provide the power to effectively influence all levels of government on the wide range of issues that impact modern farming.

Our vision is to create an environment for farmers that enables profitable, safe and sustainable production, within a community that values and respects the farm sector.

Victorian Farmers Federation – Our Position

The VFF endorses the NFF submission to the EPBC Review which should be seen as the main submission from the VFF.

The VFF has been involved in the preparation of the NFF submission. We would welcome the opportunity to provide Victorian examples of perverse outcomes arising from the current regulatory system and practical solutions to address these issues.

In particular we would like to discuss:

- Options to improve site specific information on controlled actions
- Review of Recovery Action Plans to ensure landholder input in to their preparation, review and implementation .
- Review of Recovery Action Plans to remove statements on existing agricultural land use.
- Clarification of situations when agricultural practice (ploughing, spraying etc) are to be a controlled action – similar to the critical habitat provisions in the 2018 Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Bill.
- Ways to ensure independent expert advice is sought on controlled actions and advocacy groups are not referred applications by the department.
- Ways to ensure any enforcement relies on primary evidence.