



**AGFORCE QUEENSLAND FARMERS LIMITED**

**6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, 3 November 2021 at 3.00pm**

**Claredale Pastures, 1450 Barratta Road, CLARE QLD 4807**

**MINUTES**

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

There being a quorum present, the Meeting proceeded in accordance with the Constitution at 3.05pm.

Georgie Somerset, General President (GS), welcomed all AgForce members and observers to the 6th Annual General Meeting of AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited.

Attendance for the Meeting is recorded in accordance within the Attendance Register signed by attendees on entry with 28 Members attending in person, 3 Members via Zoom and 2 guests.

A full list of attendees is attached.

### Apologies:

- Larry Acton
- Hilary Kenny
- John Cotter
- Grant Maudsley
- Jane Maudsley
- John Lethbridge

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Member proxies totalling 22 were received and were directed as follows:

9 Proxies	Directed to the Chair
13 Proxies	Directed to Bim Struss

## 3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2020 were presented to the members. The Minutes were made available for members review on the AgForce website and on arrival at the meeting.

**RESOLUTION:** That the Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting of AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited held on 18 November 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**MOVED:** John Baker

**SECONDED:** Bim Struss

## 4. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL PRESIDENT

GS presented the General President report to the members expressing how proud she is to be representing AgForce.

GS acknowledged Michael Guerin (CEO), who works tirelessly for our members and the AgForce Board and noting Michael Kern – Cane Policy Director (MK), who was instrumental in bringing AgForce and Invicta Cane Growers together. GS also welcomed Panikos Spyrou – Cane Services Manager (PS), who will be dedicated to cane commodity specific interests and the wider AgForce family in attendance.

GS presented the new, expanded and updated Annual Report and Financial Statements, that are available on the AgForce website and can be obtained in person by those in attendance.

The Annual Report provides our members with an update on AgForce operations for the year and confirms our focus and mission of Advancing Sustainable Agribusiness.

GS expressed her sincere condolences to the family of cattleman Ashley McKay who was dedicated to advocacy and property rights.

GS provided an overview of the AgForce Board and Governance structure:

- Chairs of the four Commodity Boards who ensure the voice of each commodity is represented.
  - Ricky Mio - Cane;
  - Will Wilson - Cattle;
  - Mike Pratt - Sheep & Wool and goats; and
  - Brendan Taylor – Grains
- Regional Councils reflecting distinct agriculture, landscapes and issues of regions across this vast State ensuring geographic specific issues are brought tabled.
  - Kelly Ostwald (SEQ);
  - Bim Struss (SIQ);
  - Chris Evans (SWQ);
  - John Baker (CQ); and
  - Matt Bennetto (NQ)
- Christine Hayward's (CH) expertise in commerce and corporate governance has contributed to our goal of creating a more robust and accountable corporate structure and operations.
- In addition to the Regional Councils, The Young Producers' Council, who are an energetic, forward-thinking, commercially minded group of 18-40-year-olds passionate about Queensland's agricultural industry.
  - Chair James Henderson;
  - Tamara Finger;
  - Teresa Fox;
  - Emma Knight;
  - Bec McKeering;
  - Scott Muller;
  - Henry Roellgen;
  - Ben Somerset;
  - Pieter van Jaarsveld; and
  - Helen Ward

**Other Matters Noted in the General President's Report:**

- At the end of 2020, the AgForce Board, with input from our membership, identified five key priority policy areas for 2021 and 2022, 160 members had their say on the key issues facing our cattle, cane, grains, and sheep and wool industries and the outcomes AgForce should pursue over the next two-year period. As a result of that process, AgForce established the Natural Resources, Ag Business, Biosecurity, and Workforce and Safety Committees and the Reef Taskforce.
- In the period 2020/2021 we have seen a rise in membership and have recently passed the significant milestone of 6,000 members.
- AgForce continues to give back to the agriculture industry through its properties at Belmont Research Station and Brian Pastures, facilitating investment into research and education of more than \$2.1m.
- As the voice of agriculture, AgForce representatives featured in almost 2,000 media items during the 2020/2021 period, reaching a potential cumulative audience of 29.7 million people at an advertising space rate equivalent to \$14m.
- There were 152 formal letters sent to critical stakeholders, 7 full submissions to parliament, 37 formal ministerial meetings, contribution fully and formally to 5 Parliamentary hearings and investment of almost \$2.9m into what is recognised in many circles as Queensland's premier agricultural policy unit.

- 115 producers and industry specialists supported by 44 staff, developed, and presented comprehensive policies across priority areas, engaged with national and peak industry bodies to influence national policy, and stood up for issues important to industry in Queensland.
- AgForce helped keep agriculture powering forward under COVID, securing recognition of agriculture as an essential service at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak – including negotiating border crossing exemptions and special conditions to allow farmers, farm workers, and contract harvester crews to enter Queensland.
- The State Government substantially adopted in its entirety our Agricultural Business Cycle when it released a suite of programs for drought-affected producers. This announcement not only served as further evidence of our growing influence, but guaranteed producers currently in drought continued access to existing funding, while always ensuring producers access to funding – whether they are drought declared or not.
- During the past 12 months AgForce took steps to ensure greater tenure security, writing to 254 members with Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases and urging them to consider freeholding prior to 1 July unimproved value rises. As a result, 138 applications were lodged prior to the freeholding prices rising, resulting in an estimated saving of more than \$12m.
- AgForce continued the development of practical Live Export regulation, lobbied for an additional \$1.4m to support biosecurity preparation, secured \$89,000 from MLA to deliver communication and mapping tools for pasture dieback, informed members about new and existing pests and diseases – including fall army worm and fire ants – and drove government responses to locust and grasshopper plagues and the feral pig menace. Of note was the addition of \$4m in state funding for exclusion fencing cluster projects.
- AgForce will continue to fight for fair Reef laws and continue with our Agriculture Carbon and the Environment accounting program (AgCarE) to ensure landholders not only get paid for environmental goods and services, but to reduce regulation.

GS thanked everyone for their continued support and expressed the desire to strengthen our already close working relationships as we work together to create the most powerful voice and industry-led advancements for rural and regional Queensland.

**RESOLUTION:** That the General President's report of activities for the year be adopted.

**MOVED:** Michael Pratt

**SECONDED:** Kelly Ostwald

## 5. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michael Guerin, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) presented his report to the members acknowledging AgForces's sponsors and partners.

### 1. Platinum Sponsors

- Toyota
- Telstra
- WFI
- Nutrien Ag Solutions

### 2. Gold Sponsors

- IOR Petroleum
- FMC
- NobleOak

### 3. Silver Sponsors

- Sunsuper
- FTI Consulting
- McCullough Robertson
- Olsson's

- Polaris
- Clipex
- Suncorp
- Ritchie Brothers
- ISUZU Trucks

The CEO acknowledged Queensland regional sponsors, for their generous support of the Grains Dinner held in Dalby on 23 July 2021.

The CEO acknowledged all elected representatives, volunteers, and members, noting membership growth has passed the 6,000 milestone.

It was noted the Audit Completion Report for the financial statements prepared by BDO has been included in the Annual Report.

The CEO referred to the financial statements noting the organisation adopted all the new, revised accounting standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current financial year.

The CEO noted that while AgForce's purpose has remained the same – to 'Advance Sustainable Agribusiness' – the 5 overarching objectives in pursuit of that have changed.

2021-2024 objectives:

1. Leadership in policy and advocacy
2. Strengthening internal cohesion
3. Compelling member value proposition
4. Inspiring culture
5. Growing external influence

In the 2021/22 financial year AgForce expects to increase membership, add new corporate partners and strengthen our relationships with all levels of government.

The CEO thanked all those who have supported both him and staff members, noting his admiration for their contribution to the industry.

#### **6. CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

The financial results for the period ending 30 June 2021 were made available to members with a summary of key financial items discussed.

**RESOLUTION:** That the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 be adopted.

**MOVED:** Matt Bennetto

**SECONDED:** Bim Struss

#### **7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS AND APPROVAL OF AUDITORS REMUNERATION**

The Meeting was then opened for questions relating to the financial report.

**RESOLUTION:** That BDO be appointed as Auditor for the 2021-2022 financial year.

**MOVED:** Brendan Taylor

**SECONDED:** John Baker

**RESOLUTION:** That the Auditor's remuneration of \$41,475 ex GST for the 2021-2022 financial year be approved

**MOVED:** John Baker

**SECONDED:** James Henderson

#### **8. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

GS provided an update on the committee that was formed to consider changes to the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution with the below resolutions being brought to the AGM for approval.

**RESOLUTION 1:** That clause 42.1 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Kelly Ostwald

**SECONDED:** John Baker

**RESOLUTION 2:** That clause 63.1 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Michael Pratt

**SECONDED:** Brendan Taylor

**RESOLUTION 3:** That clause 76.1, 76.6 and 76.7 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Kelly Ostwald

**SECONDED:** James Henderson

**RESOLUTION 4:** That clause 77.1 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** John Baker

**SECONDED:** James Henderson

**RESOLUTION 5:** That clause 78 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** John Baker

**SECONDED:** James Henderson

**RESOLUTION 6:** That clause 79 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Kelly Ostwald

**SECONDED:** John Baker

**RESOLUTION 7:** That clause 80 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Michael Pratt

**SECONDED:** Chris Evans

**RESOLUTION 8:** That clause 83.2 and 93.1 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Caroline Harris

**SECONDED:** James Henderson

**RESOLUTION 9:** That clause 77.13 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Bim Struss

**SECONDED:** John Baker

**RESOLUTION 10:** That clause 84.1 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** James Henderson

**SECONDED:** Caroline Harris

**RESOLUTION 11:** That clause 84.2 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Brendan Taylor

**SECONDED:** Bim Struss

**RESOLUTION 12:** That clause 101.2 of the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution be amended in accordance with the marked-up amendments in Table A.

**MOVED:** Matt Bennetto

**SECONDED:** James Henderson

## 9. General Business

GS opened the Meeting for any other business to be raised by members.

North East Queensland member Desmond Bolton raised the following points/questions at the AGM:

- For AgForce to focus on climate solutions and not carbon as this can be misguided noting AgForce could lead climate change through agriculture;
- Current Land Act - Comprehensive review of the lands act is required to resolve the injustice of the current act and review to achieve fair and equitable coexistence structure (e.g., between producers and resource industry);

There being no further business, the Chair declared the 6th Annual General Meeting of AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited closed at 4.38pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Georgie Somerset – Chair