



VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION GIPPSLAND MINING AND GAS TASKFORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Gippsland Mining and Gas Taskforce is to:

- Provide advice and feedback to the VFF Land Management Committee on mining and gas issues in Gippsland.
- Complement the activities of the VFF Land Management Committee in relation to mining.
- Help inform further development of the VFFs mining policy, and additional resources for landholders.
- Assist farmers with understanding their rights under mining and gas legislation.
- Help facilitate community consultation on mining activities.
- Provide a local liaison with mining companies, industry regulators, and other stakeholders.

In doing so the Taskforce will provide information to VFF members in the Gippsland region. The Taskforce will help facilitate two-way communication to and from the VFF and to and from local other stakeholders.

While the focus of the Taskforce will be mining and gas issues in Gippsland, it is anticipated the activities of and knowledge generated by the Taskforce will benefit VFF members throughout Victoria.

The VFF mining policy is included in Appendix 1.

Membership

All members of the Taskforce will be financial VFF members. The Taskforce will consist of a minimum of 5 members. Members will be determined through a self-nomination process open to all VFF members, as with VFF policy committees. Final composition of the Taskforce will be decided by the Land Management Committee.

Nominations to the Taskforce will be for a term of one-year.

The Taskforce will include a Chairperson who will be selected by the Land Management Committee on the basis of nominations. Nominees will be asked to either nominate for member or chairperson.

Code of Conduct

The Taskforce members will abide by the VFF Policy and Commodity Elected Member Code of Conduct, which is included in Appendix 2.

Meeting Frequency

The Taskforce will have face-to-face meetings and teleconferences as determined by Taskforce members on an as-needed basis.

Meeting Location

Taskforce meetings will be held at a mutually convenient location in the Gippsland region, as determined by the Taskforce.

Meeting Costs

The costs of attending face-to-face meetings will be met by Taskforce members. Administrative costs such as venue hire and teleconferencing costs (if required) will be met by the VFF.

Support from the VFF

The VFF head office, through the Land Management Policy Advisor, will provide administrative support for the Taskforce including providing advice on mining and gas legislation, attending face-to-face meetings as required, and facilitating teleconferences.

Direct communication and support is expected to occur between the Chair of the Taskforce and the Chair of the Land Management Committee.

Media and Public Communications

All media and public communications from the Taskforce or Taskforce representatives will be coordinated with the Chair of the VFF Land Management Committee.

APPENDIX 1: VFF Mining Policy

The VFF's Mining Policy Principles

- Farmers should hold the right of veto over mining activities on their land.
- Landowners must receive appropriate compensation & payments for all mining activities on their land.
- There must be no permanent adverse off-site impacts from minerals development on landholders. For example on water supply or quality.
- Farmland must be rehabilitated to its previous productive use at the end of the life of a mining development.
- Information on mining issues must be made available to VFF members.
- The rights of landholders must be protected in minerals legislation.

APPENDIX 2: Code of Conduct

Victorian Farmers Federation Policy and Commodity Elected Member Code of Conduct

1. An elected member must act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Federation as a whole.
2. An elected member has a duty to use due care and diligence in fulfilling the functions of office and exercising the powers attached to that office.
3. An elected member must use the powers of office for a proper purpose, in the best interests of the Federation as a whole.
4. An elected member must recognise the primary responsibility is to the Federation's members, but should, where appropriate, have regard for the interests of all stakeholders of the Federation.
5. An elected member must not make improper use of information acquired from their position within the Federation.
6. An elected member must not take improper advantage of their position.
7. An elected member must not allow personal interests, or the interests of any associated person, to conflict with the interests of the Federation.
8. Confidential information received by a committee member in the course of the exercise of committee duties remain the property of the Federation from which it was obtained and it is improper to disclose it, or allow it to be disclosed, unless that disclosure has been authorised by the Federation, or the person from whom the information is provided, or is required by law.
9. An elected member should not engage in conduct likely to bring discredit upon the Federation.
10. An elected member has an obligation, at all times, to comply with the principles of this Code.
11. An elected member must disclose any pecuniary interest.
12. An elected member has responsibility to provide known information relevant to committee/council deliberations.