



AGFORCE QUEENSLAND FARMERS LIMITED

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, 21 November 2023 commencing at 10.45am
Longreach Civic Centre 96a Eagle Street, Longreach 4730.**

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

There being a quorum present, the Meeting proceeded in accordance with the Constitution at 10.45am.

Georgie Somerset, General President (GS), welcomed all AgForce members and observers to the 8th Annual General Meeting of AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited.

Attendance for the Meeting is recorded in accordance with the Attendance Register signed by attendees on entry with over 31 Members attending in person, 4 Members attending via Teams and guests.

A full list of attendees is attached.

Apologies:

- Anthony (Bim) Struss

2. CONFIRMATION OF PROXIES

Member proxies totalling 5 were received and were directed as follows:

3 Proxies	Directed to the Chair
1 Proxy	Directed to John Baker
1 Proxy	Directed to Peter Hall

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held on 15 November 2022 were presented to the members. The Minutes were made available for members to review on the AgForce website and on arrival at the meeting.

RESOLUTION: That the Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting of AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited held on 15 November 2022 be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

MOVED: John Baker

SECONDED: Kelly Ostwald

4. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL PRESIDENT

GS presented the General President report to the members, expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to continue representing AgForce and representing members while embracing our foundations, standing strong together in the face of future challenges.

GS acknowledged her third term has been filled with challenges and responsibilities, particularly in telling our story, engaging with the community, and building diversity. AgForce has faced issues such as biosecurity, land use competition, drought, bushfires. Other challenges include the rapid development of renewables and lobbying for better resourcing of national parks management, and while some progress has been made, much work remains.

Our "Keep Farmers Farming" campaign is a key focus, aiming to connect with the public and through AgForce advocacy work lobby against policies that threaten our industry. National issues are also being addressed like water buybacks, biosecurity levies, and environmental legislation. United voices have far more impact, and this campaign encourages everyone to join in and support our efforts.

GS said she was proud of AgForce's achievements over the past year and looked forward to the challenges of 2024. AgForce governance structure ensures that the views of all members are considered, including the Young Producers' Council who are making significant strides.

Some of our key achievements, include:

- **National Advocacy:** Successful advocacy to delay the 2022 Reef Consensus Statement and maintain Australian agricultural trade interests.
- **AgForce Training:** Revitalisation of AgForce Training in response to members' demand for industry-relevant training.

- **AgCarE Initiative:** Development of AgCarE, a natural capital market product tailored for all AgForce members in preparing them for participation in nature-related financial disclosures.
- **Disaster Response:** Effective collaboration between government and industry for emergency support during natural disasters.
- **Keep Farmers Farming" Campaign:** Advocating for policies that protect agricultural production.
- **Biosecurity:** Working on biosecurity issues, especially in northern Australia (Lumpy Skin Disease).
- **Industry Influence:** Nearly 200,000 media mentions, engagement with education (AgForce Schools Program), and successful advocacy on environmental issues (Great Barrier Reef Consensus delay).
- **EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** Applauding the decision to reject the current FTA due to unfavourable terms for Australian agriculture.

GS acknowledged that The El Niño effects this summer will be challenging, and AgForce must support landholders in negotiating with large renewable companies. Our alliances and partnerships are crucial. GS also acknowledged the dedicated AgForce team and the CEO, Michael Guerin, for their tireless work.

At a national level, AgForce remains strong supporters of the NFF's campaign – Keep Farmers Farming. Please support these lobbying efforts and encourage your friends to also support farmers through the Keep Farmers Farming campaign.

With producer membership now over 6,000, GS thanked members for their trust and commitment. The AgForce team is here to help and welcomes members in utilising our offices. GS said it is a privilege to be President and looked forward to serving members during the next 12 months and beyond. GS said, AgForce will create the strongest possible voice for rural and regional Queensland.

GS acknowledged the hard work of fellow Board Members, Commodity Boards, Regional Councils, and Policy Committees, and the Deputy Chair Shane McCarthy, Commodity Presidents, Regional Directors, and Independent Directors.

GS moved her report for endorsement.

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

MOVED: Georgie Somerset

SECONDED: Shane McCarthy

5. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The CEO presented his report to the members and expressed pride in representing AgForce, emphasising the organisation's core values of truth, integrity, mutual respect, cohesion, and a passion for agriculture.

Over the past year, AgForce has demonstrated significant growth, both financially and operationally, and has made strong advocacy contributions on a range of agricultural issues. The Annual Report provides a detailed overview of these efforts and highlights the organisation's commitment to better policy settings and support for producers and the industry.

Acknowledgements (excerpt from CEO Report)

“First, to the members, I acknowledged the continued support and engagement, AgForce's strong membership base and governance structure, that has enabled the organisation to secure a seat at important decision-making tables. AgForce is one of Australia's strongest State Farming Organisations, and this is reflected in how many of you volunteer your time and intellect on various boards, councils, committees, and task forces. This support enables us to advocate and lobby far more effectively than would otherwise be possible.

Second, I acknowledge AgForce's sponsors and partners, many of whom are present today at the AGM. These stakeholders provide crucial financial and in-kind support and are proud to collaborate with AgForce in advancing sustainable agriculture.

Third, I would like to acknowledge our staff, commending their energy, professionalism, and commitment. Without their dedication, the organisation would not have been able to achieve the successes of the past year.

Key Policy and Advocacy Highlights:

- **AgCarE Program:** Launched to help landholders measure natural capital and explore market opportunities, including the carbon market.
- **Government Engagement:** Successfully negotiated with state and federal governments to avoid punitive taxes and work collaboratively on issues like a low-emission future.
- **Lobbying and Campaigns:** AgForce's advocacy efforts have had a positive impact across all commodities and regions.

Financially, AgForce ended the financial year 2023 with a deficit of \$367,413 with the result driven by strategic investments in programs like AgCarE and Ag Training noting Membership income increased by 11% and commission income rose by 12%."

The CEO thanked everyone for their continued support and emphasised that with opportunities for growth and prosperity in the industry, AgForce is well-positioned to advocate for and represent its members in critical discussions. With a state election approaching, AgForce is preparing a strong election platform to influence political parties and ensure the next government prioritises policies that benefit producers, industry and communities.

In closing, the CEO called for continued unity within AgForce, encouraging non-members to join and support the organisation's efforts, while looking forward to future success.

CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The financial results for the period ending 30 June 2023 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 2023 be adopted.

MOVED: Louise Martin **SECONDED:** John Baker

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS AND APPROVAL OF AUDITORS REMUNERATION

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

There were no questions raised by Members.

RESOLUTION: That BDO be appointed as Auditor for the 2022-2023 financial year.

MOVED: Shane McCarthy **SECONDED:** John Baker

RESOLUTION: That the Auditor's remuneration of \$51,975 ex GST for the 2023-2024 financial year be approved

MOVED: Shane McCarthy **SECONDED:** Kelly Ostwald

7. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Clause 21.1 (b) has membership fees or other moneys owing to the Company in arrears for a period of 3 months;

Clause 83.2 The Nomination, Remuneration and Culture Committee must fix a closing day for nominations for office that must be at least 14 days after the notice calling for nominations is given. The nominations will close at 5pm on the closing day.

Clause 84.2 The notice must state:

- the closing day for nomination;
- that nominations close at 5pm on the closing day;
- that nominations for office must be written, signed by the nominee the proposer and a seconder and given to the Nomination, Remuneration and Culture Committee before nominations close;

RESOLUTION: That the revised clauses 21.1(b) 83.2 and 84.2 be adopted into the AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited Constitution.

MOVED: John Baker

SECONDED: Rob Chaplin

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

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

There being no further business raised during the meeting the Chair declared the 8th Annual General Meeting of AgForce Queensland Farmers Limited closed at 11.29am

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Georgie Somerset – Chair