

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations



E: livingnextdoor@tfga.com.au

W: www.tfga.com.au



Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

Proudly supported by:



Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE)

Phone: 1300 292 292



Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association (TFGA)

Email: livingnextdoor@tfga.com.au



Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT)

Phone (03) 6146 3740



Real Estate Institute of Tasmania (REIT)

Phone: (03) 6223 4769

Acknowledgement: Reference material for this document has been obtained from various online resources including, but not limited to, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE); Tasmanian Government legislation; Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC); Tasmanian Environmental Legislation; Environment Protection Authority (EPA); Forest Practices Authority (FPA), NRM North, NRM South, local Councils and Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association.

Disclaimer: The material contained in this document is based on information available at the time of publication. Readers are reminded this booklet is a guide only and to check for updated information from a reliable source before making any decision.

Published 2021.

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

INTRODUCTION

Living in rural Tasmania offers a very desirable lifestyle but there are important factors to understand, recognise and acknowledge when considering moving into, or if already living in, a rural community.

This booklet has been developed to provide you with a snapshot of the resources and website links available to specific legislation, fact sheets and documents to ensure you have access to applicable information on farming practices.

Such as:

Page 4:	Community Relationships
Page 5-6:	Biosecurity
Page 7:	Cat Management
Page 8:	Dog Control
Page 9:	Firearms
Page 10:	Fencing
Page 11-13:	Property Management
Page 14:	Right to Farm
Page 15:	Seasonal Farming Practices
Page 16:	Stock Management
Page 17:	Waterways
Page 18:	Weeds Management
Page 19:	Glossary

Detailed information is available at www.tfga.com.au/projects

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfqa.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Life in a rural community can be a very rewarding and beneficial lifestyle once farming activities are understood and acknowledged. If you are planning a move into a rural community, or indeed are already living in a rural location, it would pay to do some investigation in the location before moving. Remember some farming practices are seasonal, so even a roadside inspection may not reveal all aspects of what occurs on a neighbouring farm, especially if you visit out of season.

Ask your real estate agent, check with your local council and the surrounding neighbours as to any existing practices you might like to seek more information about, and also if there are any seasonal farming activities you need to know about.

The benefits of having a good relationship with your neighbours, both farming and non-farming are:

- Having an extra set of eyes regarding security, rural theft and possible poaching activities;
- Co-managing good quality fencing for stock control;
- Establishing community diversity and forming lifelong friendships.
- Talk to your neighbour if there is an issue of concern e.g. noise & dust;
- Neighbours should work together to tackle weeds, fire hazard reduction and pest management;
- Neighbours should work together to ensure fences are of a suitable standard and condition;
- Pet owners should ensure that their animals do not stray onto commercial farms, particularly if the farm is running livestock;
- Livestock owners should ensure that all stock can be identified;
- Neighbours should alert each other of any suspicious activity i.e. rural theft, poaching etc.
- Always obtain advice from your local council before undertaking any works and to check if an activity may require an approval.

Relevant legislation affecting agricultural land is available at www.tfqa.com.au/projects

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

BIOSECURITY



Biosecurity is the protection of industries, the environment and public well-being, health, amenity and safety from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. DPIPW's Biosecurity Tasmania is responsible for leading the biosecurity effort in Tasmania in partnership with the community and industry.

Anyone who enters a property could carry in weed seeds, pests or diseases. These are all high biosecurity risks, so it is crucial for landholders to manage the entry of people and/or vehicles onto their property. Farmers will often have biosecurity signs at all entrances, which require visitors to phone and obtain permission prior to entering a property, a visitor's sign-in register, designated parking for vehicles, along with handwash and boot washing facilities on farm. These management procedures are not to be taken lightly and should be strictly followed in accordance with the farming property requirements.

It is important that all landholders, regardless of land size, and visitors on properties be aware of biosecurity risks that can occur and everyone should manage risks appropriately by not spreading possible pests, weeds or pathogens between properties.

It is also important to report any potential biosecurity risks (i.e. new or suspicious pests, weeds and diseases) to Biosecurity Tasmania as soon as possible. This can be done by calling (03 6165 3777) or emailing (Biosecurity.Tasmania@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au). Please include details on what you have seen, where you saw it, and if possible, send a photo with the report.

Further information is available at:

- Biosecurity Tasmania: <https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania>
- TFGA Biosecurity: <https://www.tfga.com.au/environment/bio-security>
- Farm Point: <https://farmpoint.tas.gov.au/>
- Farm Biosecurity: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>
- Hobby, Small & New Landholders: <https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/small-and-new-landholders/biosecurity-for-new-or-small-landholders>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

BIOSECURITY – continued



General Biosecurity Duty - GBD

The *Biosecurity Act 2019* introduces a new legal obligation into Tasmania known as the General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) which now applies to all Tasmanians – including farmers and those living next door to a farmer.

The Act emphasises the importance of shared responsibilities and the need for Government, industry and the community to work together to maintain a strong biosecurity system.

In simple terms, the GBD reinforces that everyone has a role to play in protecting our unique environment and primary industries against biosecurity risks.

The GBD operates as a statutory “duty of care” in respect to biosecurity. This means that a person (which includes all levels of Government, individuals, and private businesses) has to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent, eliminate, or minimise biosecurity risks.

The GBD applies if that person knows, or it is reasonable to expect a person to know, that a risk may be presented by any biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing they are involved with. The definition of a biosecurity dealing extends beyond the simple exchange or transport of goods.

The introduction of the GBD does not mean that you now have to know everything about biosecurity, however you do need to know about the biosecurity risks that apply to your specific industry, business, work environment or pastimes - and how to manage or minimise those risks to the best of your ability.

More information, including practical examples of how to meet your GBD obligations and hypothetical examples of the GBD in action, is available at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/GBD

The *Biosecurity Act 2019* can be found here: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/asmade/act-2019-022>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

CAT MANAGEMENT



Responsible ownership of a cat goes beyond just ensuring that you care for and feed your cat. Cat owners have a responsibility to ensure their pet cats don't kill native wildlife or become a nuisance to others.

- De-sex your cat: A de-sexed cat typically lives longer and is less territorial. De-sexed cats also make better pets.
- Identify your cat as a pet: Pet cats that are microchipped can be identified from feral and stray cats by vets and cat management facilities. This means they can be quickly and safely returned to you if they get injured or lost.
- Never dump your unwanted kittens or cat (it is against the law): Dumped cats are likely to become feral, prey on wildlife as a food source and contribute to the spread of Toxoplasmosis, a parasitic disease shed in cat faeces that can cause debilitation, miscarriage and congenital birth defects in humans and other animals and deaths in Australian wildlife. Unwanted cats or kittens should be taken to a cat management facility such as RSPCA, Ten Lives Cat Centre, or Just Cats Tasmania.
- Keep your cat from roaming: Pet cats should be kept at home. Cats that are prevented from roaming are protected from being hit by cars and from being injured or catching diseases from interactions with other cats.
- Don't feed stray cats or kittens: Many stray cats are not de-sexed and feeding them supports breeding, resulting in greater impacts on native wildlife, disease spread, public nuisance and more cats for the feral population.

For more information on recent amendments to the *Cat Management Act 2009* (including provisions relating to the protection of private land from stray and roaming cats), refer to this webpage, which will be updated over time as the amendments come into effect: <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/cat-management-in-tasmania/cat-management-act-amendments>

Further Information is available at:

Tassie Cat: <https://www.tassiecat.com/>

Cat Management Act 2009: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2009-089>

Cat Management Regulations 2012: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sr-2012-038>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

DOG CONTROL



There are strict regulations for domestic dog control and you should be aware of the *Dog Control Act 2000*. A farmer also has obligations under the Act in relation to the number of working dogs that can be kept on farm.

A dog is 'at large' if it is either:

- In a public place and it is not under the effective control of a person; or
- On private premises without the consent of the landholder.

Local council animal control officers are responsible for dealing with dogs at large. Your local council can also provide information about policies on registration and control of domestic dogs. It is worth noting that any dog found at large on land being used for livestock-related activities can be destroyed by the landowner.

Never dump your unwanted puppies or dog (it is against the law). Please contact your local animal care centre – they will provide advice and assist with the re-homing of unwanted puppies and dogs.

Further information is available from:

- Dogs Home of Tasmania: <https://www.dhot.com.au/>
- RSPCA Tasmania: <https://www.rspcatas.org.au>
- *Dog Control Act 2000*: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2000-102>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

FIREARMS

The screenshot shows the 'Application For Firearms Licence' form. The title is 'Application For Firearms Licence (Firearms Act 1996)'. Below the title is a 'PERSONAL DETAILS' section with the following fields:

- 1. Surname: [Text input]
- 2. Given Names: [Text input]
- 3. Age: [Text input]
- 4. Sex: [Radio buttons for Male/Female]
- 5. Date of Birth: [Text input]

Section 5: Please indicate the categories and your reason for requiring a firearms licence. The table below shows the categories and reasons:

Category	Sub-Item	Type of Weapon	Reason for Request
A		Air rifle Rifle (including pump action or self-loading) Shotgun (other than pump action or self-loading) Shotgun and rifle combination	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B		Muzzle-loading firearm Carbine (including other than self-loading) Shotgun and carbine rifle combination Self-loading rifle (other than air)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

There are genuine reasons as to why a primary producer might have a licence to use firearms on their property.

Firearms are one of the necessary farming tools of trade that allow farmers to humanely destroy domestic livestock and manage browsing wildlife or feral animals.

The management of nocturnal wildlife can involve the use of a vehicle and spotlight, often late into the night. Noise from the firearm can travel significant distances, giving the impression that the activity is closer than it actually is.

However, no one can discharge a firearm closer than 250 meters to a dwelling without the permission of the person occupying that dwelling.

There are strict rules around the ownership and use of firearms, which must be stored and used responsibly by licensed operators so as to ensure the safety of operators and the general public.

Refer here for more information:

- Tasmania Police: <https://tas.police.tas.gov.au/obtaining-a-licence/application-process/>
- Firearms Act 1996 <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1996-023>
- DPIPWE: <https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/search?k=firearms>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

FENCING



Issues around repairing or replacing a shared fence, damage to fences and boundary issues can all contribute to disputes between neighbours. Landholders have a legal obligation to fence their property. Your local council can provide some basic guidelines and minimum fencing requirements. Generally, the cost of a boundary fence between private land is shared equally between both parties. Boundary fences between private land and the Crown are the responsibility of the landholder.

The *Boundary Fence Act 1908* consolidates the law in relation to boundary fences in Tasmania, in particular the repair and erection of boundary fences, and provides guidance on the responsibilities of neighbours. The Act does not apply to any unoccupied Crown Lands or Public Reserves, nor is the Crown liable under the authority of this Act to make any contribution towards the erection or repair of any fence between land of any occupier and any Crown lands. Farmers have a legal responsibility to maintain property boundary fences in good order to ensure that stock do not cause problems for other community members. The Act, in most instances, requires that farmers share costs in relation to fencing.

The *Boundary Fencing Act (Tas 1908)* states: A boundary fence shall, as nearly as may be, be placed on the boundary line. Where any fence is to be erected on land covered with standing bush or scrub, and the required notices have been given, the person erecting the fence shall clear the bush and scrub and remove fallen timber for a width of not less than 2 metres on each side along the entire length of the fence, and may fell any tree standing in the immediate line of the fence, and may fell and remove any tree standing on either side of the fence which in the opinion of the said person may be likely to injure the fence; and the cost of such clearing, felling, and removing shall be added to the cost of the erection of the fence, and be apportioned and recoverable accordingly.

Boundary Fences Act 1908: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1908-040>

Boundary Fences Regulations 2018: Access TFGA website / Projects for the link to this information

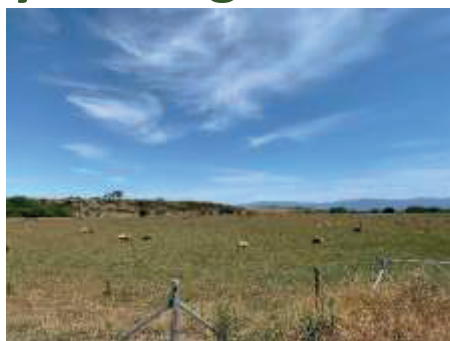
Legal Aid: <https://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/factsheets/boundary-fences-fact-sheet/>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

Property Management Planning



Property Management Planning is useful for properties of any size, not just for commercial farms. A plan for your property can help you achieve your lifestyle goals, while also maintaining environmental values. A plan helps identify the work and costs required to develop and maintain your property. Remember, with proper planning you will often only need to do things once!

Property planning involves assessing all your resources, both natural and built, as well as planning the enterprises or activities you would like to undertake on your land. It is a plan to use the land according to its capacity and to ensure you don't deplete its natural resources. In fact, good planning will protect and improve these resources.

A property plan also helps you to identify problem areas and risks to your enterprises, such as waterlogged soils, vegetation decline or the risk of flooding. There are a range of tools that have been developed to assist in property planning and these can be found on the DPIPWE Land Management Information web page.

<https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/conservation/conservation-on-private-land/property-management-and-biodiversity-planning/land-management-information>

There are also enterprise suitability maps that can help you understand the known soil and climate requirements for a range of crops to a given area.

<https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/investing-in-irrigation/enterprise-suitability-toolkit>

You can also contact your local NRM office in relation to property management planning, courses and/or possible workshops that may be available or for assistance if required.

	Phone:	Email:	Website
NRM North:	6333 7777	admin@nrmnorth.org.au	https://www.nrmnorth.org.au/
NRM South:	6221 6111	admin@nrmsouth.org.au	https://www.nrmsouth.org.au/
Cradle Coast Authority:	03 6433 8400	admin@cradlecoast.com	https://www.cradlecoast.com/

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Land Clearing – as the legislative requirements change from time to time, landowners are advised to seek up to date information from the FPA before commencing any clearing operations. Landowners should also check with their local council for any restrictions under local planning schemes and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment where necessary. [The Forest Practices Authority \(fpa.tas.gov.au\)](http://fpa.tas.gov.au)

The controls on land clearing apply to all land in Tasmania, both public and private, but there are some exceptions that may not require landholders to have a forest practices plan to authorise land clearing:

- Small scale clearing (up to 1 ha per property per year) providing landholder consent is given and the land is NOT vulnerable land. Vulnerable land refers to: stream sides and stream side reserves, machinery exclusion zones, land with steep slopes, land within the high and very high soil erodibility class, land that consists of or contains a threatened vegetation community or threatened species, land with vulnerable karst soils, or land that contains an area of trees reserved from harvesting or clearing under an expired forest practices plan.
- Clearing to provide a reasonable buffer for existing infrastructure.
- Clearing of native vegetation regrowth.
- Clearing associated with authorised dam works, easements for the construction & maintenance of electricity infrastructure and associated access tracks, construction and maintenance of gas pipelines and public roads.
- Clearing in accordance with a conservation covenant or vegetation management agreement approved by the Forest Practice Authority (FPA).
- Clearing for fire management work that is part of a fire management program approved by the FPA.
- Clearing for mining or mineral exploration activities authorised under the *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993* - <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-070>; or a licence or lease under the *Minerals Resources Development Act 1995* <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1995-116>

Forest Practices Authority: <https://www.fpa.tas.gov.au/>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT continued



Burning off - during a fire permit period you will require approval to light a fire. Check with your local fire station or council for more details on burning off vegetation on your own property. Farmers need to advise neighbours if they are going to undertake burning off activities. <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au>

Fire hazard management - Methods of fire hazard reduction includes prescribed (planned) burns, slashing, mowing, grazing and mechanical removal of fuel. Prescribed fire hazard reduction should only be undertaken in consultation with fire management authorities and the Tasmania Fire Service.

<http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pageId=colFuelReductionProgram>

Feral animals - Feral animals are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity in Tasmania. Feral animals seriously affect agriculture by damaging crops, preying on livestock, competing for pasture and/or degrading the land by causing soil erosion, water turbidity and the spread of weeds. European rabbit management is likely to be a high priority for many farmers: <https://dpiwte.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/invasive-animals/invasive-mammals/european-rabbits>

Agricultural activities that generate noise including bird scarers, frost fans and irrigation pumps - It is not always possible to avoid noise that can affect neighbours in rural areas. The general approach to noise in residential areas is that there are 'permissible hours of use' for certain types of equipment

<https://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/noise/residential-noise-and-hours-of-use>. This is not the case for activities for primary industry. Under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 (Tas) Section 53*, 'noise that is emitted from or by a primary industry activity', certain activities do not constitute a nuisance, within the meaning of the *Primary Industries Activities Protection Act 1995 (Tas)* if the activity is being carried out properly and not negligently. It is not always possible to avoid noise when carrying out normal agricultural activities. Farmers are encouraged to consider wherever possible how to minimise noise impacts on neighbours. Check with your local Council on its policy relating to noise impacts.

<https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/tasmanian-councils/local-government-links>

Living with Wildlife - Living on the land is unique and living with wildlife can mean that occasionally landholders can come into conflict with animals such as wallabies and possums. Discover solutions and advice on how to live with wildlife: <https://dpiwte.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management>.

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

RIGHT TO FARM



People considering a move to a rural area should be aware of and understand that rural land is often used for primary production and normal farming activities can have impacts on neighbours.

The concept of a 'right to farm' mainly relates to farmers being able to undertake their lawful agricultural activities without non-farming neighbours and community land users trying to stop farming activities.

A farming business is often a 24/7, 365-day job. Activities never stop and a farming property can be a very busy environment, especially during peak seasonal harvesting. Where there are dry conditions, both farm vehicles and livestock may create more noise and dust around the surrounding properties to a farm. The best way to manage these issues is to talk to the farmer to resolve the situation and to develop a plan that would suit everyone involved before a dispute occurs.

The Primary Industry Activities Protection Act 1995 represents a legislative approach to protect the right of farmers to conduct their farming activities. The *Act* protects persons engaged in primary industry by limiting the operations of the common law of nuisance in respect of certain activities that are incidental to efficient and commercially viable primary production.

Further information is available from:

- *Primary Industry Activities Protection Act 1995*:
<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1995-102>
- Good Neighbour Charter: <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/good-neighbour-charter>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

SEASONAL FARMING PRACTICES



Water is one of the most precious natural resources in Tasmania and Tasmanian catchments support a variety of biodiversity and threatened species as well as industries.

In 1999 water legislation was amended to provide greater protection to waterways, water bodies, wetlands, and groundwater, as well as to protect a farmer's need to irrigate. The majority of crop irrigation in Tasmania is sourced from streams, waterways, bores and dams.

Irrigation and the spraying of crops is a seasonal farming activity, often with intense production at specific times throughout the year and can happen day or night depending on the harvesting season. This activity can affect noise and traffic around a farming property. Where an irrigation spray affects a public road, warning signs should be seen on the property boundary fences advising of irrigation spraying onto a public road.

Water Management Act 1999: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1999-045>

The Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is the regulating body for farm compliance with regards to chemical use and storage. Farmers, small landowners and hobby farmers should always store chemicals in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards. Farmers do need to ensure that spray drift or run-off from pesticides do not enter adjoining properties.

The main legislation in Tasmania that regulates the use of agricultural chemicals is the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995* and the regulations under this Act.

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1995-106>

There is also a Code of Practice for ground spraying.

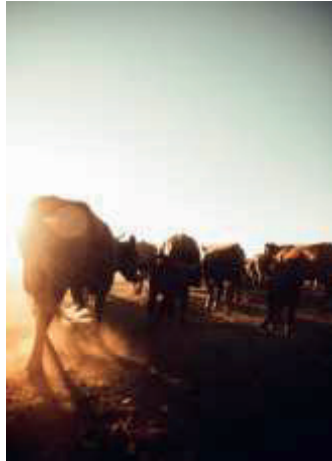
<https://dpiwve.tas.gov.au/agriculture/aqvet-chemicals/codes-of-practice-guidelines-and-information-sheets/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-ground-spraying>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

Stock Management



A farmer moving stock, dealing with effluent and getting vehicles on and off their property can be challenging tasks. Understanding and acknowledging these activities can play an important role in how farming activities can be managed without conflict or disputes.

A farmer is responsible for removing any mess that is made by livestock on public roads. Manure on a paved surface can create slippery conditions, is inconvenient to other motorists, and may erode bitumen surfaces.

Be patient with stock movement when travelling on public roads.

Check with your local Council on its policy relating to stock management.

<https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/tasmanian-councils/local-government-links>

Under the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935* it states the following:

51. Laying down timber, &c., on roads: No person shall –

- a. Lay down or cause to be laid down or deposited any timber, stone, hay, straw, dung, lime, soil, ashes, or other like matter or thing, or any rubbish upon any road;
- b. Fell, cut, bark, or remove any tree on or at the side of any road; or
- c. Remove any soil from any road – unless he be authorized by the road authority having the care, control, or management of such road so to do.

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1935-082>

- Livestock on roads/Stopping for livestock – as per the Tasmanian Traffic Regulations
<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sr-1999-131>
- *Animal Welfare Act 1993* <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1993-063>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

Waterways



The landscape of Tasmanian properties often come with a mix of elements. Riparian bush, pasture, native grasslands and water courses all influence on what you may need to do to maintain or improve your property. If the property has watercourses running through it or access to neighbouring dams, the rights to access this water or use it to fill property dams may not automatically pass with purchase of the property title. Ensure you clearly understand, consider your legal responsibilities and have documented what passes with the property and ensure transfer of water licences are part of the agreement of purchase.

Waterways support a variety of biodiversity and threatened species as well as industries. For properties within catchments, rivers are often the property boundary and neighbours should work together to ensure that the river and adjacent land remains free from weeds, excluded from stock and that native riparian vegetation is maintained or enhanced.

For more information on water licences and managing water go to: <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/water/a-guide-to-water-in-tasmania>

Understanding how to manage the landscape of your property can be daunting, but a bit of research and contacting your local Natural Resource Management (NRM) or Landcare group can set you on a path that may avoid costly mistakes. Local council contacts are also useful in identifying what programs may be running in your area to assist you in your land management.

The Forest Practices Act 1985 and the *Forest Practices Regulations 2017* prohibit forest clearing on defined 'vulnerable land', such as stream-side reserves and threatened wetland communities. *Streamside reserves vary from 10 metres from the streambanks for a Class 4 stream to 40 metres for a Class 1 river.* A planning permit is required before commencement of any use of development which, under the provisions of a planning scheme, requires planning approval.

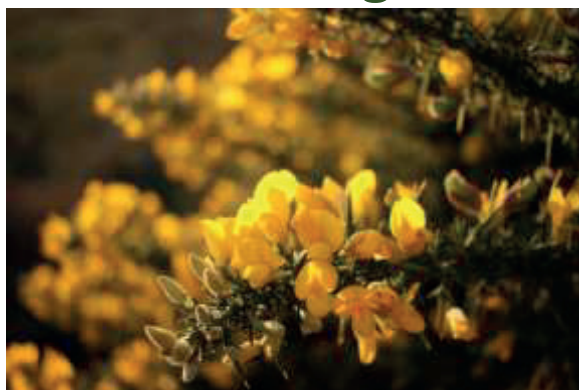
- LGAT Tasmanian Local Council: <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/tasmanian-councils/local-government-links>
- *Forest Practices Act 1985*: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1985-048>
- *Forest Practices Regulations 2017*: <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sr-2017-021>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

Weed Management



Currently there are a large number of declared weeds in Tasmania, some of which pose a significant risk to agriculture and native biodiversity.

Keeping weeds under control, both on farm and in a neighbouring property is paramount to the cessation of a weed infestation.

Further information is available at:

<https://dpiptwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index>

One of the most common ways weeds are spread is via mobile machinery, feed imported from other properties, equipment and vehicles. These include cars, 2-wheel motorbikes, quad bikes, tractors and implements (including slashers and cultivators), earthmoving machinery, harvesting equipment, trucks and boats. Landowners, contractors, drivers, etc may, through routine daily activities, inadvertently spread weeds into clean areas.

Good weed prevention practices include:

- Ensuring all vehicles, boots and machinery are clean when entering your property.
- If obtaining the history of livestock feed is not possible, ensure feed is dispersed in a contained area that is easy to monitor and control should an outbreak occur.

Good weed management is an important aspect of ensuring that you meet your General Biosecurity Duty obligations.

The *Weed Management Act 1999* <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1999-105>

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

Glossary

Agricultural spraying Means the spraying, spreading or dispersing of an agricultural chemical product whether by hand or from any machine or piece of equipment, and includes aerial spraying.

Aircraft Means any machine, other than a hovercraft, that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reaction of the air but does not include a machine operated by remote control.

Biodiversity The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.

Crown Lands Land which is vested in the Crown, and which is not contracted to be granted in fee simple; and includes land granted in fee simple which has reverted in the Crown by way of purchase or otherwise.

Effluent Collectively, urine and dung are called excreta. This excreta is typically mixed with wash water produced by cleaning yards; with wash water, chemicals and residual milk from cleaning equipment; with waste feed or bedding material; and occasionally with rainwater. The resulting liquid is usually referred to as effluent (or dairy shed effluent or wastewater).

Karst soil Terrain usually characterized by barren, rocky ground, caves, sinkholes, underground rivers, and the absence of surface streams and lakes. It results from the excavating effects of underground water on massive soluble limestone.

Landholder A person who owns land, especially one who either makes their living from it or rents it out to others.

Primary Producer An individual, partnership, trust or company operating a primary production business if they undertake: plant or animal cultivation (or both) fishing or pearling (or both) tree farming or felling (or both).

Riparian A riparian zone or riparian area is the interface between land and a river or stream. Plant habitats and communities along the river margins and banks are called riparian vegetation.

Turbidity The quality of being cloudy, opaque, or thick with suspended matter.

Living Next Door to a Farmer

Promoting good neighbourly relations

<https://tfga.com.au/environment/living-next-door-to-a-farmer-1>

For more information

www.tfga.com.au

