Interested in making a real contribution to the future of Australian agriculture?
The Australian Farm Institute

The Australian Farm Institute is an agricultural policy research institute that has been established to develop and promote policies that maximise the opportunity for Australian farmers and the agricultural sector to operate in a profitable and sustainable manner.

The Institute carries out this role by commissioning and conducting research projects on specific farm policy issues, and promoting the outcomes of this research to policy-makers. The Institute also produces a variety of publications which contain authoritative discussion about agricultural policy issues.

The Institute utilises funding voluntarily contributed by individuals and corporations to fund its activities.

The Institute is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, and is governed by a Board of Directors which determines the organisation’s strategic direction.

The Institute’s research activities are overseen and directed by a Research Advisory Committee, which consists of some of the most senior researchers and academics involved in agriculture in Australia.

The Institute promotes the findings of its research projects to policy-makers and the wider community through publications, seminars and briefings.

The publication of the Farm Policy Journal is an important complementary activity of the Institute. The Farm Policy Journal is recognised as a prime source of objective and well-considered information on farm policy and agricultural issues, both within Australia and internationally.

Why Support the Institute?

Corporate membership of the Institute reinforces that an organisation is strongly committed to the future of Australian agriculture.

As Australia becomes more and more urbanised and regional populations and farmer numbers decline, the risk increases of public policy decisions being made that are contrary to, or ignore, the interests of agriculture.

Farmers, agribusiness and regional Australians need to counter this risk by adopting a more strategic approach to issues that impact upon them. They need to be actively involved in setting policy agendas, rather than just responding to agendas set by others.

To do this requires a sound strategic understanding of agriculture, dedicated resources, and a commitment to researching, developing and promoting credible policy ideas to enhance the growth of the sector.

The Australian Farm Institute has been established for this purpose, and is something that all those involved in Australian agriculture should be part of.

The Institute encourages agribusiness organisations, farmers, and regional communities to become contributors. By providing financial support for the work of the Institute, contributors can ensure that policies and ideas to advance their industry are being developed and promoted to policy-makers.

As well as providing access to Institute events and publications, being identified as an Institute contributor sends a clear message to the agricultural sector and to policy-makers that an organisation is interested and engaged in the long-term future of the sector.

Contribute to the Institute’s Capital Fund

The Australian Farm Institute has established a capital fund, the aim of which is to secure the long-term future of the Institute, and to ensure that resources are available to carry out valuable agricultural policy research projects in the future.

The Australian Farm Institute is recognised by the Australian Tax Office as an accredited research institute, which means that contributions to the Institute’s Capital Fund are fully tax-deductible. The Capital Fund is invested securely, and will grow over time and secure the future of the Institute. The investment returns arising from the Capital Fund are used solely to fund Institute research projects, as directed by the Institute’s Research Advisory Committee.

Contributors to the Capital Fund are permanently recognised in all regular Institute publications, presentations and on the Institute’s website. Contributors to the Capital Fund in excess of specific thresholds also gain permanent access to other benefits, including complimentary copies of Institute reports and publications, and complimentary attendance at Institute conferences and events.

For further information about contributions to the Institute’s Capital Fund, please contact the Executive Director on 02 9690 1388.
Corporate Membership

The Australian Farm Institute provides opportunities for companies involved in Australian agriculture or agribusiness to support the Institute’s activities. The Institute has established a number of Corporate Membership categories with differing access to Institute information and differing levels of recognition. Corporate Membership of the Institute is available on an annual basis. If you are interested in Corporate Membership of the Institute, please contact the Executive Director on 02 9690 1388.

Sponsorship and Advertising

The Australian Farm Institute also welcomes sponsorship and advertising in association with Institute functions, research projects and publications. Organisations choosing to sponsor Institute research projects, events or publications should be aware that they are not able to influence the outcomes of those events or publications.

Normally, sponsorship opportunities are allocated on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis. Organisations can however, pre-book advertising space for multiple editions of the Institute’s Farm Policy Journal.

Advertising in the publications such as the Farm Policy Journal and the Farm Institute Insights quarterly newsletter provides an excellent opportunity for highly targeted promotion with the key decision-makers in agriculture in Australia. Advertising rates for the Farm Policy Journal and the Farm Institute Insights newsletter can be obtained by contacting the Institute.

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<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Annual Contribution</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
<td>A minimum of $25,000</td>
<td>One complimentary participant at Institute annual Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference Up to five complimentary participants at other Institute seminars Acknowledgement in regular Institute publications Up to 20 subscriptions to the Farm Policy Journal Copies of all Institute research reports In-house briefings with research project researchers One full-page colour advertisement in each edition of the Farm Policy Journal One quarter-page advertisement in two editions of the quarterly newsletter Farm Institute Insights Voting rights at Institute Annual and General meetings in proportion to membership contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Between $10,000 and $25,000</td>
<td>Up to three complimentary participants at Institute seminars (excludes Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference) Acknowledgement in regular Institute publications Up to 10 subscriptions to the Farm Policy Journal Copies of all Institute research reports One full-page colour advertisement in two separate editions of the Farm Policy Journal Voting rights at Institute Annual and General meetings in proportion to membership contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Between $5000 and $10,000</td>
<td>One complimentary participant at Institute seminars (excludes Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference) Acknowledgement in regular Institute publications Up to three subscriptions to the Farm Policy Journal Copies of all Institute research reports Voting rights at Institute Annual and General meetings in proportion to membership contributions</td>
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Institute Governance

The Australian Farm Institute is a company limited by guarantee, owned by the members of the Institute. It is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of persons with extensive experience in Australian agriculture and farming. Board members are elected by eligible Institute members at the Annual General Meeting held in June each year.

The Institute’s research agenda is governed by the AFI Research Advisory Committee, which includes some of the most senior and experienced researchers and academics involved in agriculture in Australia and New Zealand. This group has two roles – the first being to identify strategic issues of significance to the agriculture sector that merit detailed research, and the second being to act as a peer review group for research prior to its release.

Board of Directors

David Anthony, Chairman – Chairman and former CEO of Auscott Limited; Chairman of Cotton Catchment Communities CRC; Chairman of Career Harvests Inc; Council member NSW Minister for Primary Industries Ministerial Advisory Council.


Jane Bennett – Non-Executive Director, Australian Broadcasting Corporation and CSIRO. Chairs the Tasmanian Food Industry Advisory Council Member of the Brand Tasmania Council. Previously, Managing Director Ashgrove Cheese Pty Ltd. 2010 Tasmanian Telstra Business Woman of the Year and 1997 Australian ABC Rural Woman of the Year.

Andrew Spencer – Chief Executive Officer, Australian Pork Ltd. Director, Pork CRC Ltd. Twenty-five year career in agribusiness, both in Australia and internationally. Worked in France, in the agricultural biotechnology and seeds markets.

Mick Keogh – Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute. Mick holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Agricultural Science (UNSW) and has previously had roles as a research scientist, agribusiness consultant, industry lobbyist and farm manager. He is involved in family farming interests in southern NSW.

Research Advisory Committee

Professor Snow Barlow – Head, School of Agriculture and Food Systems, The University of Melbourne

Dr Peter Carberry – Deputy Director, Sustainable Agriculture Flagship, CSIRO

Professor Les Copeland – Professor of Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, The University of Sydney

Wayne Dunford – Board member of NSW Farmers’ Association. Operates a mixed farming business west of Parkes, and a beef cattle enterprise north of Brewarrina

Professor Ross Kingwell, Chairman – Professor, School of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of WA; Chief Economist, AEGIC, Department of Agriculture and Food WA

Professor Jim Pratley – Professor of Agriculture, School of Agriculture and Wine Sciences, Charles Sturt University

David Sackett – Managing Director, Growth Farms Australia; Board member of Future Farm Industries CRC

Dr Mal Wegener – Honorary Research Fellow, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland

Mick Keogh – Executive Director, Australian Farm Institute

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