



AARES
AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

AARES Communication Policy

The Australasian Agricultural Resource and Economics Society Ltd (AARES) believes that everyone has the right to receive and share information in an environment that is safe and comfortable and where all parties have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. There are a number of platforms for AARES communication which are all covered by the following terms and conditions.

AARES has an obligation and responsibility to provide and encourage a safe physical and emotional environment for all members and stakeholders. This responsibility is increasingly linked to the internet and information and communication technologies, including social media platforms. AARES supports the appropriate and acceptable use of information and communication for the benefit and use of its members, as well as encouraging members who are active communicators and social media users to adopt similar guidelines.

Appropriate Use

The objective of this communication Policy is to assist users of all AARES communication to feel comfortable and safe with the information submitted. All members are expected to treat each other fairly, in a friendly manner and with respect at all times. Information shared, and opinions published or shared on any platform (social, print, web-based) are to be professional, considered and relevant.

Disputes

Where disputes arise and cannot be settled by the actions identified in this policy then members have the right to lodge their dispute or concern in a more formal environment as set out in the AARES's member dispute policy (See Constitution Section 25 Disputes).

Conflict of interest

AARES acknowledges and respects the right of individual members to promote their organisation, share information and contact members and stakeholders through their own individual social media platforms and pages. AARES members may initiate communication content related to AARES such as Branch Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, blogs and other content on the communication platforms mentioned above or equivalent.

Although AARES has no legal right to enforce specific AARES communication policies against a member's individual professional or private social media account, AARES places great emphasis on high professional standards and appropriate business ethics. As such, we expect all members to comply with those practices when engaging with individual stakeholders through communication platforms.

If a member's social media activity reflects negatively on AARES, this may be considered for disciplinary action under the AARES Constitution. In particular, an AARES Member whose "behaviour is causing, has caused or is likely to cause harm" to AARES may be warned, suspended or expelled from the Society (Clause 25.1).

Communicating with Children

Anyone under the age of 18 years is legally identified as a child. AARES is committed to child safety and encouraging and assisting all members to adopt child safety policies in all aspects of their use of communications. AARES encourages members to adopt practices that are in line with common business ethics and standards.

These include:

- using appropriate language when posting information communication platforms.
- posting information that is relevant to AARES matters only;
- not communicating with people under the age of 18; and
- refraining from requesting platform users who are under 18 years of age to join the AARES platform.

Non-compliance

The AARES appointed administrators and moderators of all the AARES platforms reserve the right to moderate or remove any posts that are deemed inappropriate and not in the spirit of the society or intended use. These include posts that are:

- Rude, offensive, insulting or defamatory against other AARES members, students, other businesses, individuals or forums;
- Intentionally causing disharmony among AARES members;

- Personal attacks against other AARES members;
- Primarily or deliberately designed to inflame others;
- Terrorist based or religiously or racially motivated;
- Images, videos or links that contain blatant graphic, obscene, offensive or sexually orientated content;
- Advertising a member's business, product or service unless these are largely related to public and/or community goods rather than private gain; and/or
- Spam of any kind.

Inappropriate use of any AARES platform will not be tolerated. Group administrators and/or moderators will warn offending members that their behaviour is inappropriate and repeat offenders will be removed. Any breach by a member after returning from suspension will result in that member being permanently removed from any AARES communication platform.

If any member of the Society is concerned that their post has been moderated or removed unnecessarily and they wish to discuss it further, AARES encourages the member to contact the AARES Central Office directly by phone or email, or private messaging their concerns to the administrator and/or moderator/s.

Whilst robust discussion, where appropriate, is encouraged among members, AARES discourages all members from engaging in aggressive and argumentative behaviour in response to another member's post or opinion. If a member is concerned about the content of a post, then that member is encouraged to contact AARES directly to discuss further or report the post to the administrator and/or moderator/s.

Any personal grievances with other AARES members should be dealt with via personal messages and the content of related telephone calls or emails should not be shared in an AARES forum. All members must treat other users with respect at all times.