

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

Date submitted

22/10/2014

Name of Organisation/Individual

Rod Botica

What are the top policies from the Green Paper that the Government should focus on in the White Paper and why?

Water Resources Augmentation, Reuse and Agricultural Water Use Efficiency. By expanding water resources with improved stormwater reclamation, storage, re-use, fit for purpose use and water use efficiency you can grow the Agricultural Products Base. There is no mention of Artificial Aquifer Recharge, collecting and diverting storm water event into ground water aquifers that enable increased agricultural production in a variable and drought prone climate. This is a key strategy moving forward.

What policies from the Green Paper don't you support and why?

The abolition of the National Water Commission setup by the Howard Govt is a very bad current Govt Policy. The nation must get the water resource and natural environment balance optimal, plus access to secure and sustainable sources of water to increase agricultural productivity and provide more access to agricultural land and increased production that is sustainable. Go back to the drawing board and get this one right.

General Comment

The focus on dams and infrastructure must be broadened to focus on Farm Water Dams by offering incentives to expanding and deepening existing farm dams and creating new Farm Water Dams to increase the store of water available to farms for stock watering, horticulture and aquaculture. - refer WA Dept of Water Farm Water Rebate Scheme (Rural Water Planning). Many thousands of additional Farm Water Dams all around Australia will enable diverse and appropriate agricultural activity to be expanded that is suited to local conditions. This focus will be far more productive than building several new large scale dams given Australias variable and drying climate of the new century.