

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

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Name of Organisation/Individual

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

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

General Comment

There must not be any foreign ownership of land or businesses in Australia, there is no need for this. The situation at present, with foreign ownership being permitted, and indeed encouraged, is absurd and is greatly harming the competitiveness of Australian farmers, as land is bought at high prices and in some cases, an aggregation of several farms is made. This is coupled with the distinct probability that people will be brought here from overseas to work on these farms, thereby denying local Australians employment. If and when the foreign owners acquire enough land for their purposes, they will be able to completely supply their own requirements and will not need to purchase products from Australian farmers at all. They will have 'bought out the competition'. This fact does not appear to have been given any consideration by the Australian authorities, who should be protecting the Australian farmers, their farms and agriculture in general. However, in contrast, the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of agriculture would be greatly enhanced if a Development Bank was re-established, as existed years ago, to lend money at a reasonable, low interest rate to Australians, for worthwhile ventures and purposes. This would benefit all areas of primary production and significantly reduce the debt burden for many people who are struggling to re-pay loans, especially in times of hardship or natural disasters. The Development Bank loans should also be available to assist young people wishing to purchase a property or farm of their own, as presently, this is completely out of reach for the majority of young men and women who will be the primary producers of the future.