

# **Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission**

## **Date submitted**

12/12/2014

## **Name of Organisation/Individual**

Save Cliefden Caves Association

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

Sustainable use of land and water resources, particularly in protection of the natural environment and mitigation of climate change.

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

Building of new dams. More dams do not equal more water. Dams also have significant negative impact on the environment, particularly on the health of rivers. They are costly to build and represent poor use of available funds. There are much better ways to protect available water resources and to improve efficiency of water use.

## **General Comment**

The question is; competitive with whom and where. Multinationals have a habit of screwing farmers down to prices which make agricultural production almost profitless. These multinationals take large profits, and dictate what the public wants (particularly in relation to unrealistic "quality" of produce where slight blemishes are deemed by the multinationals to be unacceptable). Consumers are never asked what price they would be prepared to pay for Australian agricultural products. Nor are they asked or given a choice of the so-called quality referred to above. A more transparent regime, backed by strong government legislation and monitoring, will be of the most benefit to the agricultural sector in Australia.