

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

Date submitted

11/11/2014

Name of Organisation/Individual

Adrian H Richardson

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

I have two ideas that should be implemented to help improve the profitability of farmers and be environmentally responsible at the same time. The first is that, as farmers grow the food and fiber that enables every other occupation to exist, then productive agricultural land used to produce food and fiber should not pay any Shire Rates. Only the homestead and 2Ha surrounding it should be valued and be rateable. (The same as Social Security for pension assessments.)

The second relates to farmers being the custodians of remnant vegetation. All remnant vegetation and native vegetation which is fenced off and protected within privately owned land should be quantified, then the average net return per Ha should be paid to the farmer/landowner each year as a steward or caretakers fee. (The net amount being determined for each district on a rolling 5 or 10 year average.) You would find that this would not be very much!! but it would compensate the landowner for the production forgone whilst he/she is protecting the environment for everyone. At the moment the farmer bears all the cost including paying Shire Rates on land that, for the greater good of the environment and everyone, is kept as native vegetation earning nothing.

Farming profitability is being constantly marginalized the input cost over which farmers have little to no control continue to escalate while prices for agricultural products only creep up then down. Without direct market intervention, which is not going to happen, the only controllable costs are things such as those I have raised. No Shire Rates on productive farmland. Pay farmers/landowners for the land they are unable to use to produce food or fiber.