

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?

Animal welfare should be a key consideration in Australia's Agriculture competitiveness policy platform. The Federal Government should play a leadership and coordinating role in promoting a progressive and harmonised approach to animal welfare across Australia and resource the Department of Agriculture accordingly. The live export of animals has no place in an agricultural sector that is serious about animal welfare. Instead of continuing to support an inherently cruel live export trade, efforts should be directed towards working with industry to phase out the practice, alongside intergovernmental collaboration and the investment in infrastructure needed to successfully transition to chilled and frozen meat exports. From an economic perspective, by continuing to support and focus on trying to grow live export markets, the Government deals Australia out of the economic and employment benefits (known as value-adding) to be gained by processing animals here (thereby avoiding long cruel sea journeys and poor practices overseas). Competition between exporters and domestic processors does nothing to grow the Australian economy. All it will do is bump up the price of meat in Australian supermarkets. The government's current pre-occupation in 'ag gag' style measures, to clamp down on exposes of animal cruelty, is going to inhibit further advancement of animal welfare within the agricultural industry. It would be far better to focus efforts into making the agricultural sector more transparent and accountable to animal welfare laws and in doing so, grow confidence in the sector amongst consumers.

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

General Comment