



AgForce Queensland Industrial Union of Employers

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CB/GG056

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Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Re: AgForce submission to Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper

AgForce is the peak lobby group representing the majority of beef, sheep and wool, and grain producers in Queensland. The broadacre beef, sheep and grains industries in Queensland generated around \$4.5 billion in gross farm-gate value of production in 2012/13. AgForce exists to ensure the long term growth, viability, competitiveness and profitability of these industries. Our members provide high-quality food and fibre products to Australian and overseas consumers, manage more than 50% of the Queensland landscape, and contribute significantly to the social fabric of rural and remote communities.

AgForce provided an extensive submission to the Issues Paper in April, 2014 and is pleased to see many of these options included in the Green Paper. AgForce generally supports the policy priorities outlined in the Green Paper and the emphasis on achieving a better return at the farm gate to ensure a sustainable and competitive Australian agricultural sector.

AgForce agrees with comments in the Green Paper that it is farmers that make the business decisions that will contribute to making them profitable and competitive; however we see that it is government's role to analyse and identify the most appropriate measures to provide the business operating environment that supports this outcome. Further, this decision-making process and subsequent investment must occur as a priority to fully capitalise on the potential from rising world demand for high quality food and fibre, including through the recent finalisation of significant trade agreements.

As a non-for-profit industry group, AgForce does not have the capacity to undertake extensive cost benefit analysis in response to many of the questions posed by the government within the Green Paper. As a result, the following tabulated submission is focussed on providing our views on those ideas that we believe will make the most difference to our members. As a member of the National Farmers Federation we also support their submission.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please feel free to contact me or Senior Policy Advisor Dr Dale Miller on 07 3236 3100 (or millerd@agforceqld.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

Charles Burke - Chief Executive Officer, AgForce Queensland