

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

Date submitted

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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

Please find the attached submission which I totally support and is to be considered as my submission to this important topic. (*Referring to Voiceless submission GP20*)

I would also like to further emphasize the following points from the RSPCA submission:

As more and more people become concerned about animal welfare, governments will need to treat animal welfare as a 'public good' and play a prominent role in assisting industry to deliver improved animal welfare standards.

It is disappointing that the Agricultural Competitiveness Issues Paper barely mentions animal welfare except as a "social" issue (p.13) to which farmers must respond.

Community and consumer demand should be seen as one of the biggest drivers - and, hence, opportunities – to improve animal welfare.

Major retailers and indeed some sectors of the livestock industry have embarked on a range of initiatives to improve the welfare of farmed animals in this country. It is this community sentiment and the opportunity it provides for those who produce animals for food and fibre on which the White Paper should be focused.

A livestock industry that sees animal welfare as an opportunity to be embraced, and that invests in improving animal welfare standards, and fosters consumer trust through transparency, is an industry best placed to capitalise on the consumer trends occurring here in Australia and throughout the developed world.