

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

Date submitted

24/11/2014

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?

Infrastructure - All Aust. Superannuation Funds should be required by law to lodge a certain % of funds with a Fed. Govt. backed body to fund necessary work. Get the country cranked up again with our own employees money which in turn employs even more people. Govt. can also contribute from revenue etc.

States & Territories , Competition & Regulation - Need to get rid of all duplication,Red Tape and over Regulation. The Ag. sector is regulated to death. EXAMPLE :- ESSCASS. Live export responsibility should stop at our shores (point of sale) We do not govern overseas countries!!!!!! Aust Govt. needs to toughen up and force people like Lynne White to face the entire Australian population. If Animals Aust. want conditions in overseas countries to suit their needs then they need to fund it all or convince voters at an election to pay a levy or extra tax to fund it. If they can't then dont expect farmers and the live trade to fund it for them. In other words Pay up or Shut up.

Finance, Taxation - Need a new Govt. Bank to provide long term low interest loans (25 Yr. min) to Family Farmers under 40 Yrs. NOT CITY CORPORATE FARMERS!!!! The average age of Farmers is high 50's so unless young blood is injected soon we are doomed. All Fodder, Water, Soil Conservation Measures should attract 100% deductability plus 20% Invest. Allowance in year of expenditure. Farm Management Deposit limits need increasing to 1 million

and if a farmer reaches 65 and is handing over to children, he should be able to roll FMD's into a pension or annuity with no Tax Liability.

Education,Skills, Labour - We are at the top end of world labour costs. We need to increase time at work back up to 40 hr week and 2 wks paid leave.without change in pay rates.ie more productivity.

Either scrap Unfair dismissal laws or have Unfair departure laws as well. Too much emphasis on Ag Science Graduates and not enough on Coalface Workforce. You can have all the research you like but unless skilled workers are implementing it you go nowhere.

Water - Get on with the Bradfield Scheme. If you diverted 20% of an almighty QLD coastal flood it would be a plus envionmentally.

Biosecurity - Regarding imports, there is no such thing as minimal risk, it is either No Risk or Some Risk.

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

Foreign Investment - Only Australians should own our land. With Foreign ownership Urban Sprawl and ridiculous subdivision lifestyle block laws we are destroying productive land and inflating it's price not only beyond the reach of young farmers but past where it will provide a return on investment.

Drought - There should be no drought assistance full stop. Note Prof.John Freebairn (Melb Uni) and from a family farming background himself - the only person I have heard speak out with the correct approach.

If people cannot manage with what I have suggested in (Finance,Taxation) they need to leave the industry. Propping up the unviable is not an option. You need more property on the market to reduce the price and allow the young to enter the industry.

Research, Extension - Most farmers are aware of research and innovation. We are amongst the most innovative in the world. The problem which everyone conveniently overlooks is the fact you need money to implement it all.

So we need a bigger share of the "buck" for our produce as was the case 100 yrs ago. Then you will see some results.

General Comment