

This is my submission in relation to the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper.

These are the points I would like you to consider –

-Animal welfare is not sufficiently addressed in the paper. Animal welfare should be a priority in the key objectives and policy principles yet it is not. This demonstrates animal welfare is not a priority in the agricultural sector and it absolutely must be.

-There is a recommendation in the paper to increase education about agriculture. I support this, it is important people realise where their food comes from. However there must also be a focus on improving industry knowledge about the importance of animal welfare, and developing procedures that continuously improve animal welfare.

-Intensive factory farming must be banned. The inhumane treatment of factory-farmed animals is abhorrent and as a “civilised” nation we must do better now that we know better. The following practices must be prohibited – sow stalls and crates for pigs, cages for chickens, the confinement of all animals and all mutilation practices.

-The responsibility for animal welfare needs to be a top down approach with regulation from federal government forming the backbone of animal welfare protection. It is irresponsible for government to place responsibility for the protection of animal welfare on consumers.

-Live exports must be banned. We must cease treating agricultural animals as commodities with no feelings.

-Ag-gag laws must not be introduced. These laws would only serve to suppress transparency about practices at factory farms, which would have a detrimental effect on animal welfare overall. Farmed animals are raised away from public scrutiny. Often knowledge about abuses can only come from whistle –blowers and animal activists. The knowledge of abuses would likely help prevent further abuses at that organization. Limiting the ability to gain this information through the introduction of ag-gag laws would result in less instances of animal abuse becoming known and more animals would continue to exist in torture. If ag-gag laws are introduced I propose all animal industries, including abattoirs have glass walls.

Thank you for considering my submission.

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