

# **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?**

- (1) "Big picture" policy issues for long term sustainability of agricultural competitiveness, because unless the policy discusses long term issues it is only providing 'band-aids.'
- (2) The policies ought to include the need for comparison of overseas agricultural methods and procedures with those in Australia in order for Australia to gain a competitive edge.
- (3) Emphasis ought to be given to competitiveness of Australian growers produce in comparison to that which is imported into Australia, as this is of national interest.
- (4) There ought to be mention of the growing importance of Australian organically grown produce as this is seen as being of increasing importance overseas.
- (5) In order for Australian grown product to be competing on a "level playing field" it is essential that Australia ONLY trades with overseas countries which have equal binding regulations regarding:
  - (i) fair prices for their produce;
  - (ii) fair labour conditions - safe working conditions and sustainable wages (forced and slave labour are to be prohibited);
  - (iii) environmental sustainability - protection of water resources and natural vegetation, protection of ocean & river habitat, erosion control, proper management of waste, and prohibition of pesticides & herbicides which are banned in Australia.
  - (iv) a policy to encourage agriculturalists to use methods to: (a) protect farmer's health, (b) minimise water and energy use, and (c) ensure long-term viability.

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

There was nothing of substance.

## **General Comment**