

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper – Submission IP12
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We are farmers from the wheatbelt of Western Australia. We believe that family farms are the most sustainable agricultural investment, because farming is not just an investment but a way of life. Farmers will continue growing food when there is no return on investment, contending with drought, frosts, low returns, high input costs, competition from state- backed foreign investors, subsidized competitors and markets beyond their control.

Family farmers support local communities and work to make life attractive in the bush, despite the government withdrawing services and the astronomical cost of education.

We are taking risks to develop healthy soil which will provide nutritious grains and help to overcome the epidemic of obesity, heart disease, etc. Healthy soil will grow crops which are drought resistant, with considerably lowered input costs, reducing the use of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.

We request the government to protect farmers from the greed of banks who greatly increase interest rates when farmers are under pressure; legislate to ensure foreign ownership is less than 50% of any property; increase services and infrastructure to the bush; control monopolies and cartels which set prices for primary produce and put farmers out of business.