

The Horticulture Industry has in the passed 10 years faced challenges that have placed great hardship on many of our members, the white paper gives the industry an opportunity to contribute to the future of Horticulture in Australia.

Compliance and Regulation, a review of this issue to determine if there is a way to reduce the complexity and amount of compliance and regulation needed operate a farming enterprise for both domestic consumption and the international market. Reviewing the current level of compliance so it is relevant for the new century.

As we have seen in the last 10 years rapid weather changes are making the act of farming increasingly more challenging with the need for farmers to adapt to the changes not over medium to long term but at increasingly shorter time periods.

The international markets are an opportunity, we can see positive advantages in the export of our products, there needs to be a streamlining of compliance and regulation to enhance our accesses to these markets without overriding the local issues in the importing market.

We are seeing a rapid decline in the number of experienced farmers in our industry , this knowledge and experience is going to be critical for the future of horticulture in Australia, the accesses to finance for the current and next generation of farmers is increasingly more difficult to obtain, we are seeing the results of this in an increasing number of abandoned properties and the increasing age of our members.