Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper Submission - IP612 Simon Trinca Submitted 21 April 2014

ADDENDUM TO WHITE PAPER SUBMISSION

The main consequence of farmer's margins being cut wafer thin by anti competitive buyers and sellers and lack of competition is that they try to survive the inflexible and insensitive demands of their lenders by increasing volume even when they shouldn't. Like hamsters on a wheel, they plant big acreages in poor seasons and bad markets, which further lowers the price for their output and aggravates their debt problems. They certainly can't then afford environmental stewardship and eventually collapse when their debt overwhelms them.

Apart from being very unfair to farmers this is an extremely poor long-term business model for the nation.

Providing financial counseling and superficial debt relief to farmers who have gone broke through no fault of their own, is a supremely arrogant insult and the final nail in too many very real coffins.