

SUBMISSION FOR AGRICULTURE WHITE PAPER

1. Taxation – taxation deduction for all principal reductions on core debt (that was secured by mortgage documents prior to the drought being declared) in the financial year immediately post drought season.
2. Labour Costs – investigation into the collusion of professional service providers (lawyers, accountants, consultants) who place an agreed floor price for services of their individual association members. By their own self-imposed standards they set prices. A movement that prevents price gouging and annual inflationary increases (eg 10%pa) by organisations or individuals can stabilise incomes and avoid greedy behaviours of partners within firms. Operating as per the minimum standard for wages it would set the maximum standard and this relative to the returns of the clients they service.
3. Foreign Labour – Streamline access and application process for rapid and affordable manual labour to assist farming families with cropping and livestock operations.
4. BioFuel/ BioEnergy Initiatives – Support the production of ethanol from biomass, grains etc in rural/ regional communities with tax deductions on establishment of capital structures, deferred taxation liabilities for first three years of production, drought assistance loan rates, minimal EPA interferences.
5. Co-operatives Support – Facilitate the development of local co-operatives to value-add produce to develop jobs, profits within the local community to further attract and develop business opportunities. That is, local business people teaming together to create cost competitive enterprises that are also tax effective structures for growth of non-city communities.
6. Local Government Support – Provide direct funding to local communities from the GST revenue rather than to State governments which misallocate funding to communities. This will assist with road maintenance and construction; medical premises; government funded staff for medical/ education etc as the community sees its own personal needs. Guarantee funding to support jobs for YIYO maintenance work on government roads/ buildings/ etc.
7. Education Assistance Loans – Boarding away from home loans at minimal interest with HECS style repayment systems.