

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

Date submitted

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Name of Organisation/Individual

Piper Pastoral P/S

What are the top policies from the Green Paper that the Government should focus on in the White Paper and why?

Domestic costs

Domestic monopolies/duopolies

Domestic impediments to trade

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

dams - we can't manage those we have sensibly for the benefit of agriculture, I don't want to pay for more of them. If the true cost of damming and supplying the water is levied on the consumers/farmers then it will be unaffordable to use anyway.

General Comment

Align our costs with those of our competitors - fuel, freight, labour, regulation, finance etc. Everything else is window dressing.

We (the farmers) could increase production significantly off our existing land, even with the vagaries of the weather, but it is currently uneconomic to do so. While ever there is a major disconnect between world demand (and retail prices) for food and what the producer gets paid for it, no increase in production will occur. We buy all our inputs at domestic retail price, and sell all our produce at export parity price! Freight to port plus costs onto the boat exceed the subsequent cost of shipping it to the other side of the world. Moving up the value chain or working off-farm is difficult when you consistently work 50-60hrs/week with no/little annual leave/RDO/sick days/long service etc. that most Australians take for granted. We provide our own running water, sewerage, and now power, and must maintain this infrastructure while city dwellers just expect it to be provided (subsidised). Not to mention costs of distant education and medical services. The surest cure for mental health problems is a good rest away from work for while, without worry, and a fair return for what you produce.