

# **Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission**

## **Date submitted**

27/11/2014

## **Name of Organisation/Individual**

Western Lands Advisory Council (NSW)

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

The necessity for additional weather radar stations to be installed to fill the huge gap in radar services across the western section of NSW.

The importance of effective weather radar services for emergency management (flood mitigation, bushfire, air transportation etc.), agricultural, mining and other industries, transportation, particularly related to tourism, and specialty industries such as the internationally significant telescopes at Coonabarabran and Parkes was emphasised.

Our Council was informed that the establishment of a weather radar system may be in the order of \$2.5M, with limited ongoing operating costs due to the highly automated technology now utilised. Whilst at least two additional stations are essential to fill the huge gap in western NSW, it is considered that the cost of dealing with natural disasters in and progressing across the Western Division would likely be more than offset when compared to cost of such a weather system.

The importance of having a fully integrated weather radar system across eastern Australia cannot be over emphasised for emergency management purposes, as a large proportion of dangerous weather patterns progress from central Australia eastwards. It is ironic that the existing station at Woomera in central South Australia currently provides the most valuable reference for emerging weather threats for eastern NSW, with the next available reference points being at Moree and Mildura.

With high level monitoring accuracy of only approximately 200km radius, it is obvious that very poor forewarning of western originating weather patterns can be provided to most of NSW by the current stations.

Our Advisory Council urges the Federal Government to escalate the priority of need to establish the critically necessary additional weather radar stations to fill the huge geographic gap between the existing stations at Woomera (central South Australia), Mildura (Victoria) and Moree (northern NSW), thereby ensuring a more fully integrated weather forecasting and monitoring service is available for all of NSW, including the Western half of the State.

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

## **General Comment**

The necessity for additional weather radar stations to be installed to fill the huge gap in radar services across the western section of NSW.

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