

Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper Submission

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Name of Organisation/Individual

Samantha Johns

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

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

General Comment

Animal welfare should be a core consideration in Australia's Agriculture competitiveness policy platform. By making animal welfare a state responsibility, the Federal Government is backing down from its own responsibilities and ability to lead and coordinate the promotion of a progressive and harmonised approach to animal welfare across Australia.

In particular, the live export of animals has no place in an agricultural sector that is serious about animal welfare. Instead of continuing to support an inherently cruel live export trade, efforts should be put towards working with industry to phase out the practice, alongside intergovernmental collaboration and the investment in infrastructure needed to successfully transition to chilled and frozen meat exports.

How many exposes from Animals Australia is it going to take for the Federal Government to step in and start phasing out this barbaric industry that provides very little economic benefits to the country, especially when compared with the economic potential of a chilled/frozen meat trade?

By continuing to support and focus on trying to grow live export markets, the Government deals Australia out of the economic and employment benefits (known as value-adding) to be gained by processing animals here (thereby avoiding long cruel sea journeys and poor practices overseas). Competition between exporters and domestic processors does nothing to grow the Australian economy. All it will do is bump up the price of meat in Australian supermarkets. And meanwhile, the Australian public's disapproval of the government continues to grow with every expose of the barbarity intrinsic to this trade.

Lastly the government's current preoccupation in 'ag gag' style measures, to clamp down on exposes of animal cruelty, is going to inhibit further advancement of animal welfare within the agricultural industry. It would be far better to focus efforts into making the agricultural sector more transparent and accountable to animal welfare laws and in doing so, grow confidence in the sector among consumers.