

**Submission – Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper**

**3 April 2014**

**Following are issues I consider need to be addressed in the White Paper:**

1. Free trade agreements must be fair trade agreements. Most agriculture segments seem to be poorly supported in our FTA's while in-turn our farmers have to cope with cheap tariff-free imported foods.
2. Australia's phytosanitary standards must not be compromised. If a disease or pest does not occur in Australia we must insure imports do not threaten our disease-free, pest-free status.
3. Imported food standards must be the equivalent of Australian grown food standards. This is for consumer safety and to eliminate unfair standards imposed on our own industries.
4. Country of origin labeling needs to be easily identified so consumers can make informed choices.
5. Local planning laws must not disadvantage small-scale farming enterprises. Large-scale farming can be less productive in some sectors.
6. All farming enterprises must be supported from unfair rating strategies and essential services, such as power and water, must be provided at minimum cost.
7. Farming enterprises need to have access to cheap loans to enable entry to young farmers and to facilitate expansion and efficiency upgrades.
8. Agricultural enterprises need to be protected from animal activists and extremist environmental groups.
9. Industries that seek to co-exist in agricultural areas and that may threaten agricultural industries must be fully cleared by an independent government body before operations commence.
10. A government code of practice for supermarkets needs to be put in place that protects consumers as well as our farming industries.

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