



wacoss
Western Australian
Council of Social Service Inc

*Ways to make
a difference*

Agricultural Competitiveness Issues
Via the Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce;
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Agricultural.Competitiveness@pmc.gov.au

City West Lotteries House,
2 Delhi Street, West Perth,
WA 6005
ABN 32 201 266 289

17 April 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission to the Agricultural Competitiveness Review

Re: Improving psychological and social resilience of farming families and communities in reference to *Issue Nine: Assessing the incentives for investment and job creation; Government Drought Assistance*

Please find a brief submission from the Western Australian Council of Social Service (the Council) in relation to the issues paper concerning the importance of sustaining farming families and communities psychological and social resilience during and after drought events.

The Council is the leading peak organisation for the community sector, and represents around 300 member organisations and individuals, and over 800 organisations involved in the provision of services to individuals, families and children in the community. The Council has strong relationships with the community services sector and represents the interests of the sector and the communities they serve. The Council therefore is in a unique position to comment on critical social issues that affect members of the WA community.

The Council would like to draw to the attention of the Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the imbalance between economic and psychological and social policy responses to drought and its impacts in previous drought assistance to family farm businesses. The Council advocates a more balanced approach with as much policy emphasis placed on responding to and supporting the psychological and social needs of farming families as well as the economic considerations.

If the Council can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irina Cattalini', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Irina Cattalini
Chief Executive Officer