

SUBMISSION TO
AGRICULTURE & FOOD POLICY REFERENCE GROUP

TOPIC	COMMENTS
Importance	Individually, nationally, globally, agriculture is the most vital industry. Committee has great responsibility.
It's now or never for manufacturing. <i>Refer attachments</i>	Also for intensive agriculture which has already passed "crunch" time.
S.K.I.N.: Spend the kids inheritance now	This is what our governments have done - and continue to do!
World's best practice. (Governments have exhorted farmers to achieve; many have achieved	National infrastructures; none have achieved this status. Vital for export competitiveness.
Free trade <i>Refer attached</i>	Impossible to achieve, especially with agriculture. The pendulum seems to be swinging away from globalization, back towards protectionism. The failure (so far) of the Doha Round of WTO tariff lowering negotiations is another example of the pulling back from global free trade taking place.
National disunity	Seven states; must co-ordinate; international competition is on a national basis - especially related to trade.
Time	Farming needs "immediate" decisions. Parliaments, public servants, unions not appreciative of essential national importance.
Public service	Overloading producers with "paper work" - value/need check essential. Tendency to adopt a "superior" attitude. Commerce works business hours whilst farmers work according to need.
Employment	Cost cannot compete with that of international competitors. Fair trade? Work ethos? Duty to work being "dramatically" lost, reasons and ramification need highest level appraisal. Loss of industries, employment overseas, "snowballing" effect, numbers and skills. Publicised figures relative to unemployment give false impression; indeed a lack of confidence to those seeking work. Consider figure should relate to full employment.
Water	Lack of confidence: to get quantity/quality, indeed to expand production. Frustration: accepted that Governments could/ should increase availability. Fear: that caps, rationing made permanent.
Defence/security	Australia's low population, living standards globally known. Australia must utilize its great assets to withstand outside force. Water/population/production, indeed fair trade are essential aspects. Without USA Australia is most vulnerable; indeed from global pressure seeking space sharing justice

