

# Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper

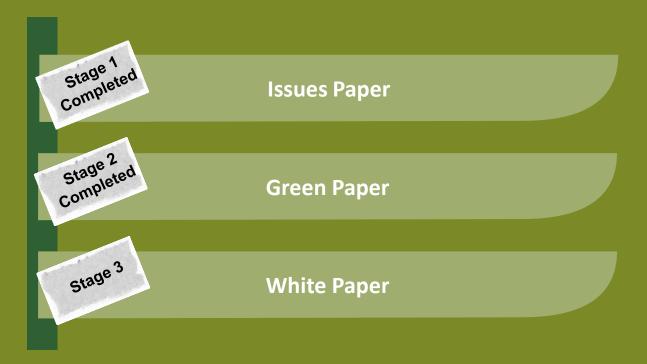


# Why an Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper?

- The Government commissioned the White Paper to:
  - Ensure the agriculture sector remains a significant contributor to both the national economy and local communities; and
  - Set out a clear and transparent strategic approach to promote more investment and job growth in the Australian agriculture sector.



# **White Paper process**





# The Green Paper

• The Green Paper was a consultation document presented in the style of a broad options paper.

- It contained:
  - the Government's assessment of the challenges and opportunities for improving Australia's agricultural competitiveness and profitability
  - a range of possible policy ideas proposed by stakeholders.



#### What we have heard

- The consistent themes that arose from consultations include:
  - A strong biosecurity system;
  - Improved market access;
  - Focussing RD&E at increasing farm gate returns;
  - Reducing the red tape burden;
  - Improving weather information;
  - Establishing a register of foreign ownership of agricultural land;
  - Improving competition policy;
  - Increasing agricultural specific education;
  - Providing agriculture specific tax incentives; and
  - Investment in public infrastructure.



### What the Government is already doing

- The Government is already progressing initiatives in several key policy areas identified during consultations, such as:
  - Infrastructure
  - Communications
  - Cutting red tape
  - Conclusion of free trade agreements with the Republic of Korea,
     Japan and China
  - Other review processes i.e. Harper Competition Policy Review, Tax
     White Paper



# What the Government is already doing – Skills and Education

- Agriculture in Education Programme developing teaching resources to support teaching about agriculture across the curriculum
- Industry Skills Fund will provide up to 200,000 training places and support services.
- VET reform reforms in the VET sector will provide real industry leadership,
   less red tape for providers and more targeted and demand driven funding



#### What now?

- Not all issues raised can be taken forward in the White Paper.
- The White Paper will need to be financially sustainable within the Government's overall budget strategy and be consistent with the Government's wider policy objectives.



#### Where to from here

The White Paper will be the Government's plan to grow agriculture's competitiveness, profitability and contribute to Australia's prosperity.

It will drive the long-term agricultural policies of the Government and ensure this important sector remains a significant contributor to the economy and regional communities.

The White Paper is currently under development and is set for completion in 2015.