



The National Farmers' Federation – speaking with one voice.

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Deputy Chief Executive



Overview

- Background
- Policy priorities
- Budget priorities



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NFF Background

- Established in 1979
- Peak national body representing the interests of Australian farmers
- A united voice for the farm sector
- Predominately State and Commodity organisations with Associate Members (who have an interest in agriculture)
- 26 members



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Members Council





Vision

A strong, progressive and sustainable farming sector in Australia.”

Progressive – encompassing modern, innovative and adaptive to change.

Sustainable – including economically, environmentally and socially.

Farming sector – embracing farming businesses, agribusiness and rural communities.



NFF Mission

“To influence the Australian Government, Parliament and the broader community through national and international representation and advocacy, to achieve a strong, progressive and sustainable farming sector in Australia.”

“To provide collective strength and leadership.”



Strategic Priorities

- Increase productivity and competitiveness
- Secure and grow domestic and int markets
- Sustainable NRM
- Focus on people
- Improved perception of ag



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How does the NFF work?

- Policy development based on evidence
- Cttees –
 - Competitiveness
 - Trade
 - Innovation
 - Sustainability
 - Natural resources / water
 - Workforce Productivity
 - Biosecurity and Animal welfare



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Operating Principles

- Need for robust data and analysis to underpin policies
- Membership support – engagement and consultation process
- Good relationships
- Open communication vital (industry, stakeholders, Govt)
- Non-partisan position



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Current priorities

- Competitiveness
- Foreign investment
- Infrastructure
- Trade and market access
- Northern Australia
- R&DE
- Review of representative model



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Skills and workplace

- Productivity Commission inquiry into the workplace relations framework
- Farm safety
- Workforce skills and supply
- Modern award reviews
- Migration policy



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Budget 2015-16

- Challenging fiscal environment
- Support the commitment to bring the budget back into surplus.
- If the current policy settings remain budget will remain in deficit for the next decade.
- Structural change across the economy



Budget 2015-16

- Agricultural competitiveness
- Improving market access
- Water & Natural Resource Management
- People in agriculture
- Energy efficiency and energy costs
- Building infrastructure
- RD&E
- Drought policy



Budget Priorities

- Implement the Ag Competitiveness White Paper
- Continue to open markets
- Specific funding for infrastructure and transport
- Secure and build R,D&E
- Tools to assist Emissions Reduction Fund uptake



Skills and education

- Making agricultural work more attractive to the next generation, by reducing costs of VET education
- Classification of agriculture-related courses under the National Priority Band for compulsory HECS-HELP repayments to increase student numbers.
- Funding for research to underpin the development of a Best Practice Scheme for Agricultural Employment
- Funding to secure the future of Farmsafe Australia



Summary

Busy agenda...

- Ag White Paper
- Taxation review
- Northern Australia
- Energy White paper
- Competition legislation review
- Budget
- Trade
- Foreign investment
- RD&E
- Infrastructure
- Workforce, skills and education



Thank you