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Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper



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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.



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White Paper process





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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.



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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.



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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



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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



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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.



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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.