

## Agribusiness Alert

# The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper – your opportunity to have a say in the future of the agricultural sector

March 2014

The Australian Government is developing a White Paper on the Competitiveness of the Agricultural Sector. Its intention is to provide policy directions for enhancing profitability and boosting agriculture's contribution to economic growth, trade, innovation, productivity and regional communities.

Key dates for White Paper process:

Announcement of terms of reference	9 December 2013
Release of issues paper	6 February 2014
Due date for submissions on issues paper	17 April 2014
Release of Green Paper	Mid 2014
Due date for submissions on Green Paper	8 weeks after release
Release of White Paper	End of 2014

The Agricultural Competitiveness Issues Paper that was recently released identifies the key issues on which the Government is seeking input and will guide the development of the White Paper. It also outlines questions to prompt discussion and input from stakeholders.

### Key Issues

1. Food security in Australia and the world through the creation of a stronger and more competitive agricultural sector.
2. Means of improving market returns at the farm gate, including through better drought management.
3. Access to finance, farm debt levels and debt sustainability.

4. The competitiveness of the Australian agricultural sector and its relationship to food and fibre processing and related value chains, including achieving fair returns.
5. The contribution of agriculture to regional centres and communities, including ways to boost investment and jobs growth in the sector and associated regional areas.
6. The efficiency and competitiveness of inputs to the agriculture value chain – such as skills, training, education and human capital; research and development; and critical infrastructure;
7. The effectiveness of regulations affecting the agriculture sector, including the extent to which regulations promote or retard competition, investment and private sector-led growth.
8. Opportunities for enhancing agricultural exports and new market access.
9. The effectiveness and economic benefits of existing incentives for investment and jobs creation in the agriculture sector.

A copy of the Issues Paper can be found at <http://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/papers>.

Individuals and organisations are encouraged to contribute to the process by making submissions, which are due no later than **5pm on 17 April 2014**.

If you would like assistance in preparing submissions to the issues paper, please contact Claire Gitsham or David Gaszner.

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