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**Growing  
sustainably**

# Growing sustainably

**Farmers are the ultimate environmentalists, managing around half of Australia's landmass. Despite being a global leader in sustainable farming, we have plans to further bolster this competitive advantage. What we need from government is a partnership approach – putting the resources on the table to catalyse change.**

## Priority Ask

### Establish a \$1 billion Ecosystem Services Fund

The 'command and control' regulatory approach has proven inefficient and inadequate in protecting matters of national environmental significance. The NFF is seeking a paradigm shift towards market-based instruments as a more efficient method of protecting the environment.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- establish an Environmental Stewardship Fund with an initial investment of \$1 billion to facilitate the development of market-based instruments for biophysical assets (natural capital) that includes a focus on listed threatened species and communities.

## Implement the recommendations of the Craik Review

It is essential that the recommendations from the recent review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, carried out by Dr Wendy Craik, are implemented. Any revision of the Act must be fair to farmers and recognise the sector's role in protecting the environment through sustainable farming practices.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- move quickly and work with industry to implement the recommendations of the Craik Review.

## Bipartisan support for the Murray Darling Basin Plan

Delivery of the Basin Plan (in its current form) in a sensible and balanced manner is essential for the environment, farmers and Basin communities. Bipartisan support for the Plan at the Federal level is vital for industry and community confidence, and maintaining the ongoing support of state governments.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- work in a bipartisan manner which supports the full implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan;
- ensure that impacts on regional communities are understood and negative impacts limited; and,
- commit to maintaining the National Water Infrastructure Fund.

## Act on the Northern Australia Plan

A comprehensive timeline and budget is needed to progress the Northern Australia Plan (the NAWRA Report). Northern Australia represents a new frontier for exciting, often niche, agricultural industries. As agricultural land continues to be under threat from urban encroachment it is imperative that alternate land options are explored.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- develop a budget and timeline for implementation of the Northern Australia Plan.

## Adequately resource the Emissions Reduction Fund

The Emissions Reduction Fund is a major policy lever to transition the economy to lower net emissions, however additional financial resources are required to support the transition.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- allocate at least \$1 billion to fund emissions reduction in the farm sector.

## Help farmers respond to climate change

Farmers are at the coalface of climate change. The NFF has a goal for the farm sector to be trending towards carbon neutral by 2030. To achieve this target, smart policy support is required which reduces farm sector emissions without increasing costs and compromising our global competitiveness.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- partner with industry to move us towards our emissions reduction goals.
- explore ways to sustainably increase landscape resilience.

## Implement the National Forest Industries Plan

There is significant benefit to farmers, foresters and the environment from the integration of plantations into farming systems. To help realise these benefits, the NFF is calling for the full implementation of the National Forest Industries Plan.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- prioritise the implementation of the National Forest Industries Plan; and specifically,
- review the rainfall triggers in the Plantation Forestry and Farm Forestry methods to allow forestry to fully participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund.

## Commit to tackle food waste and insecurity

The farm sector is committed to minimising food waste, and has set a target of halving food waste in Australia by 2030. We are also calling for action to address the growing problem of food insecurity in our communities.

The NFF seeks a commitment that an incoming government will:

- allocate \$5m to help universities identify new markets for harvested but not marketed consumable produce;
- introduce tax incentives for charitable donations of farm produce; and,
- progress a National Food Security Strategy.

