



Mr Colin Bettles
Chief Executive
Grain Producers Australia
Email: colin.bettles@grainproducers.com.au

3 May 2022

Dear Mr Bettles,

Thank you for taking the time to write to Labor outlining Grain Producers Australia's (GPA's) Federal Election Priorities for 2022.

Please note that Labor will be releasing additional policies over the coming weeks which may touch on the priority areas nominated in your correspondence and attached policy outline.

The Grains Industry

Labor recognises that the grains industry is a substantial part of the agriculture sector.

Furthermore, maintaining a thriving grains sector, coming off a record harvest last year, will be a key element in achieving the agriculture industry's farm gate income target of \$100 billion by 2030.

With over 20,000 businesses employing tens of thousands of workers, activity in the grains industry is a major contributor to the future prosperity of regional economies.

And of course, it's a key contributor to Australia's food security and export income.

As a Party keenly aware of the contribution of agriculture and its sub-sectors to our national growth and wellbeing, Labor is keen to engage and respond to your Federal Priorities.

Labor has received similar correspondence from several agricultural peak bodies. Many have similar or identical requests of a future government. Attached is Labor's detailed response to the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), which addresses many of the issues raised by GPA.

Please note some additional points below, on some of your nominated priorities.

3. ACCC to Conduct Study of Australian Grain Markets to Optimise Competition

Beyond the points noted in the attached response to the NFF, Labor is interested to further discuss the grains sector call for an ACCC study of the state of competition in grain markets.

Following the election, should Labor form government, Labor would be prepared to meet the sector to better understand the basis of current concerns, and how an ACCC study would assist in addressing current grain grower concerns, as well as potential cost-of-living impacts for Australian consumers.

6. High Level Strategic Analysis/Investment to Reduce Grain Freight Costs

This request is noted, and as per the Market Study above, Labor would be interested to discuss the merits of such a study for both producers and consumers.

8. Sharpen Grain Farm and Community Focus of Sustainability and Resilience Programs

Thousands of Australians who face bushfires, floods, and cyclones every year deserve to be protected by a Federal Government who plans ahead and invests to keep them safe.

Labor's Disaster Ready Fund will curb the devastating impacts of natural disasters by investing in important disaster prevention projects like flood levees, sea walls, cyclone shelters, evacuation centres, fire breaks and telecommunications improvements.

Labor will revamp the failed Emergency Response Fund (ERF) so that it spends up to \$200 million per year for disaster prevention and resilience.

These investments will literally save lives, not to mention the taxpayers' funds that have to be spent on recovery and repairs when disasters hit.

Australians are renowned as the best disaster responders in the world. They deserve to be backed by a government that looks forward, plans and prevents the worst.

Conclusion

The Labor Party's historical roots are in rural and regional Australia. Successive Labor Governments have taken the hard economic decisions that have contributed to shaping today's export-oriented and enterprising agriculture sector.

Farmers deserve better than a Prime Minister that goes missing, makes excuses and fails to take responsibility when action is needed.

Australia deserves a Prime Minister that will bring Australians together, not divide us. A Prime Minister who'll work with all the States and Territories, local government, and key stakeholders to actually fix problems. A Prime Minister who'll take responsibility and tells it like it is. A Prime Minister who leads a united party. Anthony Albanese offers a better Future for Australian agriculture.

We can do so much better.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to Labor outlining your priorities.

Yours sincerely



Paul Erickson
ALP National Secretary