

## **Helen Haines – Independent Member for Indi**

*I agree wholeheartedly that grain industries are vitally important for our regional communities. I often say that one of the greatest privileges of being the Independent Member for Indi is getting to meet the amazing farmers and producers of Indi, producers so many diverse crops - of which grains are a significant contributor. Agriculture in Indi doesn't just contribute to feeding the nation; it's also a major employer. More than 5,000 people in Indi work in agriculture, forestry and fishing.*

*As the Independent Federal Member for Indi, I have a track record of fighting for our farming and agricultural communities in regional Victoria.*

*Throughout 2022 and 2023, I campaigned for a new network of agricultural extension officers to provide trusted and neutral advice to farmers and primary producers on climate change and carbon emissions. This was because I know how difficult it can be for farmers to navigate complex carbon markets or the overwhelming amount of information about climate adaptation. In the May 2023 Budget, the Government delivered on my policy, providing \$76.4 million to establish a network of Sustainable Agricultural Facilitators.*

*I opposed superannuation tax changes that would unfairly impact farmers and primary producers who include their farms in their self-managed super funds.*

*In early 2024, the Government attempted to push through new biosecurity levies that would have unfairly impacted farmers and producers. I consulted with farmers in Indi who made it clear that the Government's new levy would tax farmers for risks they don't create. The proposed levies would unfairly impact agricultural sectors in Indi like the beef and dairy. My opposition helped ensure the levies were abandoned, and the Government was sent back the drawing board.*

*Looking forward, I want to ensure our grain producers and broader agricultural sectors are set up for success. My plan for a Primary Producer Energy Incentive will help farmers right across Indi access a \$30,000 tax deduction for purchases that make their farm more energy efficient to run. This could be a new soil monitoring system, an energy-efficient cropping vehicle, an upgraded refrigeration setup, or a battery that lowers the farm's energy bill.*

*I support programs such as the On-Farm Connectivity Program, which has helped improve digital connectivity and reliability for primary producers.*

*If re-elected as the Independent Member for Indi, I would look forward to working with Grain Producers Australia and other relevant stakeholders to deliver meaningful reforms for the agricultural sector, many of which are outlined as election priorities outlined in your correspondence.*