

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary Public

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Ag Competitiveness Issues Paper Released - Comments Requested

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the Economy

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

On February 6, 2014, the Australian Minister for Agriculture Barnaby Joyce released an issues paper and has requested comments in preparation for the eventual release of an Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

Comments are requested from all stakeholders, including foreign governments. Submissions must be received by 5pm (Canberra time) on April 17, 2014.

Ref: GAIN Report - [Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper](#)

As set out in ref report, the Australian Government plans to develop a White Paper on Agricultural Competitiveness, to be released by the end of 2014. The White Paper will be the government's plan to grow agriculture's competitiveness through a variety of approaches, including through food security and farm gate profitability, increasing access to finance and enhancing the health of regional communities, as well as reducing inefficient regulation.

The Australian Government has stipulated three stages in the process of developing the White Paper. The first stage is the release of the [issues paper](#) and a call for submissions from all stakeholders. The issues paper identifies the key matters the Australian Government would like input on and will guide the development of the White Paper. The issues paper raises questions on matters that influence the competitiveness of Australian agriculture such as:

- food security
- improving farm gate returns, including drought management
- access to finance
- competitiveness through the value chain
- regional communities
- inputs along the supply chain
- reducing inefficient regulation
- enhancing agricultural exports
- effectiveness of incentives for investment and job creation.

The second stage in the consultation process on the development of the White Paper will be the release of a Green Paper. The Green Paper will contain what the Australian Government believes are the critical problems and opportunities for improving Australia's agricultural competitiveness. There is a plan to provide possible broad policy options based on the feedback and input received during the consultation on the issues paper. Responses from stakeholders to the Green Paper will likely help shape the final form of the White Paper.

The release of the White Paper by the end of 2014 will mark the final stage in the process. The Australian government envisions that this document will provide a clear, well-defined and transparent approach to ensuring the agriculture sector remains a significant contributor to the Australian economy and local communities. The White Paper is expected to be the Australian Government's policy platform to grow agriculture's contribution to the overall economy, job creation and national prosperity.

The unique nature of the White Paper development is the open and transparent nature of the comment process. Anyone involved or interested in agriculture is encouraged to read the issues paper and make a submission. The Government of Australia expects to receive comments from many stakeholders with an interest in the agriculture sector. This includes farmers and land managers, community and farming groups and associations, businesses in the agriculture supply and value chain, governments, farm advisers, agronomists, accountants, education training providers, researchers, academics and individuals. Stakeholder feedback will be critical for informing the development of the Green Paper and the final White Paper.

The Issues Paper and a fact sheet can be downloaded from the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper web site at: <http://www.agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/papers>.

Submissions can be made:

By email: Agricultural.Competitiveness@dpmc.gov.au

By mail: Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

Online: www.agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au

(NOTE: DEADLINE IS APRIL 17th, 2004, 5:00 PM Canberra Time)

Comment The Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper is one of the centerpieces of the Abbott Administration in terms of defining and shaping the future of agricultural policy in Australia. The fact that this process is being opened for comments from all stakeholders, including foreign governments, indicates the seriousness and the level of transparency in which this project is held by the Australian Government. It also provides the USG an important opportunity to provide input, and thus shape and influence the future direction of Australian farm policy. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to provide comments by the April 17th deadline using one the methods listed above. **End Comment**