



24 August 2020

The Hon Michael Sukkar MP  
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Housing  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: [prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au](mailto:prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au)

Dear Assistant Treasurer

**RE: 2020-21 Federal Budget Submission**

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the 2020-21 Federal Budget.

The NFF was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and more broadly, agriculture across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain. Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

The NFF represents Australian agriculture on national and foreign policy issues including workplace relations, trade and natural resource management. Our members complement this work through the delivery of direct 'grass roots' member services as well as state-based policy and commodity-specific interests.

This submission builds on the submission provided by the NFF in September 2019. The national and international landscape has changed dramatically since this time, and as a result some recommendations contained in the original submission are obsolete. The major changes to original recommendations include:

Recommendations with a direct budgetary impact

1. The Australian Government provide a two-year waiver on export certification fees (page 22);
2. The Australian Government commits to resourcing implementation of Australia's National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2020, with priority

- given to establishing a sustainably funded national One Health surveillance system that integrates human, animal, food and environmental usage and resistance data (page 27);
3. The Australian Government commits to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Fund with an initial investment of \$1 billion to incentivise best practice stewardship on farms (page 31);
  4. The Australian Government commits an additional \$50 million in R&D to support innovation and investment in climate research and development that provides robust baseline information, drives innovation and builds resilience, and supports communication, adoption and extension (page 33);
  5. The Australian Government commits to funding the development of a digital strategy for agriculture (page 37);
  6. The Australian Government commits adequate funding to the activities arising from the Third Review of the National Gene Technology Scheme (page 40);
  7. The Australian Governments expands eligibility of the Research and Development Tax Incentive to unincorporated businesses (page 42);
  8. The Australian Government commits to additional funding for the Kids to Farms grant program beyond the current two-year funding period (page 46);
  9. The Australian Government commits to implementing the drought relief measures identified by the NFF as critical (page 52); and
  10. The Australian Government provides permanent funding for the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme (page 57).

#### Recommendations with no direct budgetary impact

11. The Australian Government only ratify a free-trade agreement with the UK which provides liberal trading arrangements for the Australian agricultural industry (page 18);
12. The Australian Government commits to ensuring adequate long-term funding for the national biosecurity system, through prompt implementation of new sustainable funding arrangements that target risk-creating activities and increased appropriation funding (page 25);
13. The Australian Government work with industry to develop and implement a national biosecurity strategy which is supported by a long-term sustainable investment plan for biosecurity and encompasses the full biosecurity continuum - from offshore to on-farm, as well as RDE&A (page 26);
14. The Australian Government commits to working with industry, state and territory governments and animal welfare organisations to develop a national strategy for production animal welfare, building on the now defunct Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (page 27);
15. The Australian government commit to regularly reviewing the efficacy of treatments applied to the importation of high-risk goods, such as processed meat and cut flowers (page 27);
16. The Australian Government commits to genuine EPBC Act reform and implementation of recommendations from the Craik Report and Samuel Report that recognise the contributions farmers make towards meeting biodiversity objectives (page 30);
17. The Australian Government commits to digitise data collection, develop datasets that are nationally consistent and that are accessible to streamline

- the operation of the EPBC Act. Data must appropriately protect the privacy of the individual and digital capability of Governments (page 30);
18. The Australian Government, with the Basin States, act on the plethora of independent reviews (page 32);
  19. Governments reform the governance of the Murray-Darling Basin (page 32);
  20. The Australian Government undertake a review into supporting localised renewable energy generation and supply or other incentives to encourage investment in renewables (page 39);
  21. The Australian Government commits to prioritise its response to the findings of the independent review of the agricultural and veterinary chemicals regulatory framework, due in early 2021, and to work with the farm sector to ensure reforms align with industry needs (page 40);
  22. The Australian Government commits to delivering 20 new Regional Deals (page 54); and

Should you have any questions regarding this submission please contact Mr Liam Watson, Policy Officer (Trade and Economics) on 02 6269 5666 or at [lwatson@nff.org.au](mailto:lwatson@nff.org.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Mahar', written in a cursive style.

**TONY MAHAR**  
Chief Executive Officer