



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

SECRETARY

Mr Rick Wilson MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 3 September 2019 to the Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, inviting the Department of Agriculture to provide a submission to the Standing Committee for its inquiry into growing Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030.

As outlined in the National Farmers' Federation's 2030 Roadmap – *Australian Agriculture's Plan for a \$100 Billion Industry*, the Australian agricultural industry has set an ambitious goal over the next decade. This will require faster improvements in output and productivity than have been achieved in the past two decades together with a clear focus on maintaining and expanding agricultural exports in the face of a complex and increased competitive global trading environment.

There remains considerable untapped opportunities through agricultural supply and value chains to assist producers with this ambition. Secure capital is essential to growth of this magnitude. Governments will also need to consider the appropriateness and efficiency of their regulatory interventions.

The Australian Government is committed to enabling industry achieve its goal. The government, led by Minister McKenzie and supported by a taskforce within the Department of Agriculture, is currently developing a national plan for Australia's food and fibre industries, which will identify areas where the government can act to facilitate the industry's ambition. The national plan, and an associated implementation plan, is expected to be completed in the first half of 2020.

The Ag2030 Taskforce has, and continues to, consult widely across government, with states and territories, industry and supply chain organisations to inform its work. As you will be aware, the State and Territory governments have a greater practical engagement with producers than the Commonwealth (which is more focussed on trade related matters) so their involvement in this process is critical.

There are a number of other activities underway that complement this work, including the Research and Development system review announced by Minister McKenzie on

5 September 2019, with a discussion paper released on 23 September 2019, and the Deregulation Taskforce being led by the Department of the Treasury.

The Ag2030 Taskforce would be happy to keep the committee informed on the progress of its work and welcomes contributions from the committee as the inquiry unfolds. Given the current development phase for the national plan, it would be premature to provide a formal submission at this time. However, we would welcome an opportunity to share observations and emerging thinking about the most promising drivers of growth in the coming years, as our work and that of the Committee progresses.

Should the committee require any further information please contact

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Yours sincerely

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Daryl Quinlivan

9 October 2019