

General Section Policies

(last updated 14 Oct 2020)

DPIRD BUDGET AND STAFFING POLICY

2020/21 budget levels of funding, staffing and service delivery supporting agriculture need to be maintained across forward estimates.

GRAIN FREIGHT TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

WAFarmers supports government investment into the most cost effective transport routes between paddock and port.

STATE GRAIN FREIGHT STRATEGY

WAFarmers calls for \$2.5b in new funding to be allocated to the State Grain Freight Strategy between 2020 – 2030

RAV RESTRICTIONS

WAFarmers calls for all B Double RAV restrictions to be addressed and removed on local shire roads (approx cost \$500m).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROADS FUNDING GAP

WAFarmers calls for the maintenance gap of country roads to be covered by additional state and federal funding (cost \$180m in 2020) (State funding to be lifted from \$216m pa to \$300m by 2022)

WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK

WAFarmers calls on the State and Federal Government to complete the funding of the wheatbelt secondary freight network by 2030 (Approx. \$500m outstanding as of 2021),

WHEATBELT 1M HIGHWAY SHOULDERS PLAN

WAFarmers calls on the state government widen all state and secondary grain highways a standard 1m (Approx cost \$500m).

GRAIN ON RAIL

WAFarmers calls on the state and commonwealth government to allocate \$ billion between 2020 and 2030 to improving grain on rail efficiency.

TRUCK LICENSING

WAFarmers calls on the state government to allow for multiple farm trucks per farm business to be placed under the concessional licensing system.

CARBON POLICY

WAFarmers acknowledges the impact of climate change on Australian agriculture and the importance of continuing to minimize our carbon emissions and states further hat carbon captured within the production cycle including soils and agricultural produce be included in the development of an Australian wide carbon calculator

WATER SMART FARMS

WAFarmers call for \$10m to fund the Water Smart Farms initiative to develop the engineering and design of the latest water catchment, desalination, sub surface geotechnical and water bore location

technologies and mapping to help Water Corp, farmers and regional shires identify the best practice solutions to replenish exhausted farm and township water storages across the states grain belt.

STRATEGIC WATER SUPPLIES

WAFarmers call for \$100m to be allocated between 2021 and 2025 to the upgrade of the 130 strategic water reserves that exist across the state in the form of town dams and catchments to help drought proof local communities.

ON FARM STRATEGIC WATER SUPPLIES

WAFarmers call for a \$50m fund to allow for a 25% rebate on up to \$100,000 per farm business to encourage farmers to build their own large strategic water supplies capable of carrying stock and farm spray water requirements through three years of low rainfall runoff to help take the pressure off the country water supply network.

DROUGHT POLICY

WAFarmers supports policies that support farm businesses plan and prepare for drought and which provides a basic social welfare safety net to support farming families in need.

FARM MANAGEMENT DEPOSITS

WAFarmers supports doubling the Farm Management Deposit Scheme limit to \$1.6m and extending direct access to FMDs to companies and to agribusiness trusts.

DROUGHT FORECASTING

WAFarmers calls for a \$2m a year state based project to improve short medium and long range weather forecasting.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY

WAFarmers supports existing National Farmers Federation policy principles on foreign investment.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

WAFarmers supports the NFF policy on free trade agreements. (The NFF has goal for a 50% reduction in non-tariff barriers impacting Australian farm exports by 2030).

DPIRD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WAFarmers call on the state government to allocate 1% of the value of our states agriculture and food production to primary industries R and D (\$85 million 2021) .

DPIRD BIOSECURITY

WAFarmers calls for the state government to allocate 1% of the value of our state's agriculture and food production (2021 \$85 million) to biosecurity.

FERAL ANIMALS/RECREATIONAL HUNTING

WAFarmers supports increasing the government contribution to the Regional Biosecurity Groups to \$5 : \$1 from the current \$1 : \$1 to increase the effort to control declared pests.

GRAINS SECTOR

WAFarmers call for DPIRD to match the federal governments funding of grains R and D that flows to the state.

BOYANUP SALE YARDS

WAFarmers support the development of a new state owned sale yards to replace the existing Boynup Sale Yards.

GROWER GROUPS

WAFarmers calls for \$1m per year to be made available to support Grower Groups.

GRAIN AUSTRALIA

WAFarmers calls for the state government to allocate sufficient funds to ensure Grain Australia is headquartered in Western Australia.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WAFarmers support the current Rural Development Corporation research structure and matching funding from the federal government.

FIRE FUNDING

WAFarmers call for 20% of the Emergency Services Levy to be allocated to rural fire fighting volunteer services.

HAZARD REDUCTION

WAFarmers calls for Volunteer Brigades to become accredited and insured and be contracted to undertake hazard reduction burns and other mitigation works in Crown Land.

FIRE TRUCKS

WAFarmers calls for decommissioned Rural Fire Trucks be stripped of their Emergency Vehicle Pack and be made available to local communities as a working unit.

MOBILE COVERAGE

WAFarmers calls for a \$25m per annum state and federal funding to help cover mobile blackspots across the WA grain belt.

LIVING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE

WAFarmers support increasing the living away from home allowance to fully match the costs of country hostels.

LABOUR

WAFarmers call for the introduction of an Ag Visa allowing foreign workers to address peak season work shortages.

SKILLS TRAINING

WAFarmers calls on the state government to continue to fund Muresk as the center of vocational broadacre Ag training in the state.

TRUST in AGRICULTURE

WAFarmers calls for the federal government to support an ongoing national trust in agriculture program.

NORTHERN AGRICULTURE

WAFarmers calls for the Fitzroy Valley to set a goal of matching the size of the Kununurra irrigated broadacre farming precinct by 2030.

