

WAFARMERS 2021 ELECTION POLICY PLATFORM

FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH FARMERS AND MEMBERS, WAFARMERS PUTS FORWARD THE FOLLOWING POLICIES WHICH WE CALL ON ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TO ADOPT.

FARM WATER REBATES - \$20m

The state government to reinstate a 25% drought water rebate to improve on farm water security and reduce the pressure on the country water supply scheme.

FARM WATER MAPPING - \$20m

Fully fund the Smart Water Program including mapping and drilling to identify sources of water for desalination and the development of the next generation of best practice on farm water catchment.

TOWN DAM UPGRADE - \$7m

Upgrade 70 town dams and catchments.

TOWN WATER LOCAL DESALINATION - \$35m

Install desalination and holding tanks at strategic locations across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern to take the pressure off scheme water supplies.

STAND-PIPE UPGRADES - \$20m

Install large water tanks at 100 strategic standpipes to take the pressure off the country scheme water supplies.

GRAIN ROADS SHOULDERS - \$400m

State Grain Highways and Secondary Grain Freight Routes to all be sealed with one-meter-wide shoulders.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRAIN ROADS - \$400m

Local government grain roads fund of \$100m pa to upgrade Restricted Access Roads.

ROAD MAINTIANCE MAPPING - \$10m

Main Roads to develop an open access state-wide virtual road map detailing the condition of the roads and the projected maintenance and upgrade programs.

HEAVY VEHICLE ACCREDITATION

Main Roads to develop a streamlined audit process to allow local reduce compliance on seasonal farm trucks.

TIER 3 – PRIORITIES

The following lines to be rebuilt and upgraded to Standard Gauge (\$110m):

- York - Quairading
- Narrogin – Corrigin – Merredin
- Narrogin - Kondinin – Merredin
- Katanning – Nyabing
- Merredin – Trayning
- Merredin – Wyalkatchem

TRACTOR SPEEDS

Tractor speed restrictions to be lifted to manufactured engineered rating subject to existing road speed rules, and rules on towed implements.

MC DRIVER TRAINING - \$4m

50% rebate of up to \$5000 to train more heavy truck drivers.

RAIL - \$200m

Establish a state fund to support grain on rail options and partner with the federal government for an additional \$800m in funding.

TRANSPORT

State Government to establish a taskforce to drive the recommendations from the RAFFT and AGINIS reports to ensure Federal and State funding opportunities to future proof Grain transportation in WA are taken up.

ROAD ACCESS AWARENESS - \$1m

DoT to run preseason awareness campaigns in the Farm Weekly on road access rules for agricultural Implement movements.

POWER

Ensure the roll out of Stand-alone Power Systems are fit for purpose and their future maintenance costs is not unfairly cost recovered from farm businesses.

TRANSPORT LICENSES - \$10m

Allow up to three heavy vehicle combinations up to three individual low usage heavy vehicles for farm concessional registration, per occupied residence, on separate properties.

MOBILE BLACK SPOTS - \$100m

Fund an additional 300 mobile towers across the wheatbelt, Great Southern and South West.

STRATEGIC FUEL RESERVES - \$10m

Establish a strategic fuel reserve which includes holding 90 days of fuel for utilities, the state fleet and all emergency services.

GRAINS AUSTRALIA - \$20m

State government to underwrite the move to attract grains Australia to WA.

EMERGENCY HELICOPTER - \$30m

Fund an ultra-long-range emergency services helicopter capable of covering the Wheatbelt and Great Southern.

FERAL ANIMAL CULL - \$10m

Four-year program to count and halve the number of large herbivores from sensitive rangelands.

LAND CARE - \$8m

Subsidise the purchase of salt tolerant plants by 50% with the aim of planting 2 million trees/shrubs a year.

DPIRD EMERGENCY RESPONSE BISECURITY FUND - \$15m

Establish an emergency response fund for track, trace and kill of biological threats to improve reaction time.

BIOSECURITY - \$50m

Allocate 1.0% of the value of our state's agriculture and food production approx. \$10b to lift DPIRD biosecurity protection funding to \$100mpa.

DPIRD TRAINING - \$10m

Establish a two year Graduate Training Program for 20 agricultural scientists graduates a year.

AG TRAINING - \$8m

Expand Muresk's capacity as the states Regional Ag Training Institute to extend the development of ag skills and safety training.

VOLUNTEER BRIGADE FIRE FUND - \$20m

Establish a fund for bush fire brigades to buy specialist equipment water tankers, drones, graders based on matching local fund raising.

RECYCLING GRAIN HAY PLASTIC WRAP - \$1m

State government fund the transport to interstate recycling depots of hay and grain plastic wraps and examine reuse options locally.

VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION - \$4m

The states volunteer bushfire brigade be adequately funded out of the EMS and left independent of government.

BOARDING SCHOOL - \$5m

State and federal government to double the support for boarding school fees to \$20,000pa.

EDUCATION

The state government to target poor performing regional schools with additional resources to lift the percentage of students completing four ATAR subjects.

FERAL PEST CONTROL - \$10m

Double the governments matching contribution to the Regional Biosecurity Group funding scheme from 1:1 to 2:1 to increase community efforts to control declared pests such as wild dogs.

DPIRD STAFFING

Lock in DPIRD levels of funding, staffing and service delivery that support agriculture at 1000 FTEs across forward estimates.

INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER

Amend the Industrial Manslaughter laws to include the words "in circumstances of gross negligence" as the test of manslaughter by criminal negligence where jail sentence applies.

FARM SAFETY - \$4m

Establish a Farm Safety Institute to help drive safety compliance systems on farm.

RESEARCH - \$50m

Allocate 1% of the value of our states agriculture and food production to primary industries Research and Development (Approximately \$45m pa for grains, \$10m to livestock).

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION

Remove the APC broadacre exclusion subject to the inclusion of a opt out clause to allow farmers to simply fund their own industry good projects.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

No regional shire amalgamations with neighboring shires without the use of the Dadour poll provision which will ensure a referendum with a binding vote.

DAIRY INDUSTRY

State government develop support mechanisms to reverse the power of the retail majors to put downward pressure on milk prices.

DAIRY INDUSTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

State Government to facilitate the development of a whole of dairy industry 5 year strategic plan.

BEEES - \$4m

Double the number of sites available for commercial beekeepers in state forest and develop a cloud-based access portal.

PRESCRIBED BURNS - \$20m

Fund local bush fire brigades to undertake cool off season mosaic prescribed burns to prevent summer wildfires.

STATE SHEEP TRACEABILITY – \$10m

Improve the livestock sheep traceability systems including funding two designated DPIRD officers to monitor and track the state's flock movements.

DOMESTIC RED MEAT PAYMENT-FOR-QUALITY SCHEME - \$5m

Develop a quality scheme for the red meat sector, aimed at securing a consistent premium price.

MENTAL HEALTH - \$2m

Rural West to be funded to expand mental health awareness and engagement across farming families and communities.

CARBON SOIL TRIALS - \$20m

Establish long term carbon farming and regen ag field trials at the government research stations.

BOYANUP SALEYARDS - \$16m

Construct new cattle saleyards for the South West.

SOUTH WEST LIVESTOCK PRECINCT - \$4m

Purchase a block of land for a designated animal production precinct for the SW.