

Labor's Agricultural Policy Priorities

August 2014

On 19 August 2014 at a speech to the National Farmers' Federation, Shadow Agriculture Minister Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP outlined the ALP's agricultural policy priorities.

Mr Fitzgibbon's speech is available [here](#).

Policy Priorities

Citing the international public policy issue of food security, Mr Fitzgibbon discussed the looming supply-demand challenges for Australian agricultural policy.

Mr Fitzgibbon laid out eight areas where the ALP believes effective government action will be critical in order for Australia to capitalise on the unprecedented export opportunities presented by the increased global demand for agricultural products. They include the following:

1. Laying out a strategic vision and plan
2. Tackling the tough natural resource allocation questions
3. Securing the right market access outcomes
4. Establishing the best methods for leveraging public infrastructure funding
5. Establishing and maintaining a regulatory regime which addresses real market failure without unnecessarily burdening business with red tape and which is welcoming of investment, including foreign investment
6. Protecting Australia's safe, clean green image as a provider of food
7. Maximising research & development efforts—allowing Australia to do more with less while delivering niche products and high returns, and
8. Building human capital through world's-best-practice education

Mr Fitzgibbon also noted that the achievement of these policy priorities will require effort across every part of government.

Bipartisan Approach

Mr Fitzgibbon also reaffirmed Labor's commitment to a bipartisan approach to agriculture. Mr Fitzgibbon noted that if the Federal Government's Agriculture and Northern Australia white papers effectively lay the groundwork for achieving the policy priorities listed above, the ALP will welcome them.

More information on the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia is available [here](#).

More information on the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper is available [here](#).