

Working with Communities Webinar

Farming Perspectives



National
Farmers
Federation



Impact of Land Use Changes on Agriculture

- Land for agricultural use or expansion is met with competition from several industries including, conservation, urban expansion, renewable energy and carbon industry.
- Approximately 51% of Australia's landmass is managed by farmers.

Land use changes at the regional and local scale have the potential to significantly affect agriculture. These changes can:

- reduce the net productivity from the land (for example from the expansion of rural lifestyle living in our coastal fringes);
- limit the range of farming practices that can be used (for example, neighbour pressures can limit the ability to intensify or use more efficient practices);
- put at risk the natural resources, such as water, on which agriculture production relies (for example through mining or onshore gas developments that interfere with groundwater); and
- put at risk our international reputation as producers of safe food (for example the risk of land and water contamination from the chemicals used in onshore gas activities).



Recognition and Protection of Prime Agricultural Land

The agricultural sector is seeking that all levels of government:

- recognise the important role that the agriculture sector plays — and will continue to play — in the economies of our local communities, our states and territories and our nation;
- in acknowledgement of farmers local understanding, respect the right of an individual farmer to determine his/her own priority land use within existing planning requirements;
- strive for coexistence between land use practices where possible;
- recognise the importance of consulting local communities. They have a deep understanding of local issues, challenges and opportunities, especially for projects of significant scale;
- recognise that prime agricultural land is an irreplaceable resource that must be protected from permanent loss for agricultural use;



Water Availability and Hydrogen

- The development of hydrogen production facilities has the potential to impact agricultural land and water use.
- The long - term success of the agriculture sector will be dependent on our continued access to land and water.
- Agricultural land is a valuable resource that all levels of government should preserve for the future prosperity of the sector and the nation.
- The increase in potential reliance on clean energies including hydrogen, must not adversely impact water supplies for agriculture. This water is needed for irrigation to sustain Australia's food and fibre production.



Example of renewable energy priorities

What industry needs:

- Commonwealth to facilitate an enforceable code to ensure future transmission lines are placed in the landscape with proper consultation, appropriate compensation and do not adversely impact existing land use;
- Consistent with the above, deliver the government's commitment to comprehensive early consultation through delivery of Rewiring the Nation including a focus on local communities with respect to new electricity infrastructure. Along with reducing the need for new transmission lines to be built, it would provide farmers with the opportunity to earn a secondary income;
- Governments need to do more to encourage small-scale renewables and allow farmers to share power with their neighbours and local communities. This can be done by investment in progressing technology and renewable energy in agriculture.

