



Submission

Industry Funding Schemes

Continuation of the Industry Funding Schemes

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WAFarmers Submission:

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Introduction:

WAFarmers Federation welcomes the opportunity to comment on the three industry funding schemes (IFS), of Grains, Seeds, and Hay; Cattle; and Sheep and Goat.

- **What do you see as the main benefits of the IFSs?**

WAFarmers acknowledges that there are significant benefits to the agricultural industry through the industry funding schemes (IFS), and they must continue on into the future. The IFS schemes require ministerial and cabinet support.

The schemes will allow the industry to ring-fence financial resources, to deal with specific industry issues of priority, without the interference of regulatory processes.

Critical animal health and welfare issues, as well as biosecurity threats, are able to be more effectively managed to minimise the potential risk implications on the Western Australia industry status.

The Industry funding schemes allow agricultural priorities to be managed throughout the entire value chain. It encourages the industry to take responsibility, and come together to identify priorities for the good of the industry. It also facilitates action on these priorities, as there is a set mechanism around project implementation and accountability.

The IFS allows cohesion, collaboration and leadership, which is critical to the betterment of the industry.

- **To what extent do the IFSs support industry competitiveness and sustainability?**

The industry funding schemes' main functions are to determine and enhance pest, disease and biosecurity management priorities. Therefore, effective management of these issues will improve the WA industry competitiveness in the global market.

Enhanced health and welfare of both crops and livestock always leads to increased sustainability. This is due to the decreased environmental impact, and therefore improves the overall carbon footprint of the sector.

- **What are the benefits of having the Schemes controlled by industry?**

It is an industry funding scheme, and therefore should be controlled in collaboration with government and public officials. As the industry provides all funding to the scheme, which is not match funded by government finances, the industry representatives must determine the money utilisation.

It offers mechanisms for issues to be tackled on an industry-wide basis, without compromising individual businesses. The industry support for an issue will facilitate a rapid response, which if left unmanaged, could lead to industry wide-failure.

The IFS provides resources to the industry to facilitate the response to an agreed priority area.

Maintenance of a declared issue status, will maintain effective border control standards, in accordance with State control and eradication requirements.

- **Do you think the IFSs should continue until (at least) 30 June 2020? Explain.**

Yes.

WAFarmers supports the continuation of the industry funding schemes until 2020.

However, the schemes require key performance indicators and outcome-based priorities to be built into all programs, to ensure the effective use of industry funds.

The industry funding schemes are essential to industry, as if they weren't to continue, the responsibility of health, welfare and biosecurity will fall on individual businesses or private companies, which could compromise the industry stability.

The industry is becoming increasingly concerned with the removal of staff from DAFWA, as a result of government cost cutting measures, and the implications for biosecurity controls throughout the state.