



Australian Conservatives

...a better way for South Australia

Hon Robert Brokenshire MLC AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATIVES

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Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia 5000

Our Ref: 08429

9th March 2018

Wade Dabinett
Chairman of Grain Producers SA
By email: wade@longtrailfarms.com.au

Dear Mr Dabinett,

Thank you for your recent correspondence and request for a response to the Grain Producers SA policy document.

Australian Conservatives are major supporters of South Australian agriculture and the state's producers and are pleased to provide the following outline of our support for your policies below. We have also attached a copy of our *Investing in Rural and Regional South Australia* policy which is the most comprehensive policy of any South Australian Political Party and contains greater detail for your reference.

Yours sincerely

Robert Brokenshire MLC

Hon Robert Brokenshire MLC

Encl: Copy of Australian Conservatives Rural Policy

Response from the Australian Conservatives

1. **Create infrastructure efficiencies for lowest-cost delivery to markets. Agree.**
 - Australian Conservatives agree that there needs to be an economic impact study on the benefits of moving to a demand-pull marketing system for the grain industry as well as a transport study for Eyre Peninsula to address the regions' critical transport and supply chain.

2. **Increase market access to boost returns to SA's Economy. Agree.**
 - The South Australian Government must commit to recommendations regarding cost-effective third-party access to export ports made by the ACCC including giving access to producers to information about grain held at port terminals so they can make competitive on-farm decisions.

3. **Invest in plant science research, technologies and biosecurity. Agree**
 - Australian Conservatives want funding increased for agricultural R & D and biosecurity so our producers can increase their export potential and would consider the merits of a stand-alone primary production department under the condition both were adequately funded and private/public investment opportunities explored.
 - Before moving further, there needs to be a comprehensive survey of farmers' attitudes to GM.

4. **Build a stronger workforce with new entrants and skills development for current participants. Agree.**
 - Australian Conservatives are committed to raising awareness of the importance of agriculture in South Australia and educating the community at large about farming practices and the need for a strong healthy agricultural presence which is why it forms part of our *Investing in Rural and Regional South Australia* policy. We are therefore committed to funding for promotional and educational efforts and consider promoting workforce opportunities in agriculture through schools an important part of this education.
 - We also want TAFE and registered training organisations across the state to include the right curriculum for people wanting to develop agriculture skills.
 - We also support a government-led review into the relevance and value of tools to help farms to self-manage for times of risk as a way to ensure jobs and opportunities continue. The Australian Conservatives *Investing in Rural and Regional South Australia* policy includes a Rural, Regional and Agriculture Standing Committee whose role would be to maintain a continual focus on the benefits, challenges, growth opportunities and needs of agriculture in South Australia.

5. Balance agriculture with competing land uses **Agree.**

- Australian Conservatives agree with the Grain Producers SA that there needs to be balance between the needs of agriculture with competing land uses. As a party we are not anti-mining but believe that mining and agriculture interests should be balanced and that farmers need to be given rights to protect them from interference with the legitimate use of agricultural land.
- Our *Investing in Rural and Regional South Australia* policy includes:
 - Making arable farming and grazing land a no-go zone for open-cut mining. Our intention following the 2018 election is move an amendment to the new mining act due to come before parliament that would zone out all arable farming and grazing areas of South Australia (around 5% of land in the state) from invasive open-cut mining practices.
 - Food Producers Right to Farm. A comprehensive policy that calls for:
 - Legislated protections for farmers and the creation of a Mining Ombudsman.
 - Food Producers Right to Farm would legislate to ensure there are no-go zones in this state to protect sensitive farming areas from mining intrusion so that we have the guarantee of food security for the future. This includes no fracking the South East.
 - It also protects farms from nuisance complaints and unnecessary law suits when their behavior and practices are simply part of normal farming activities. The legislation would require that anyone buying a property to be told upfront about the types of activities taking place on neighboring properties including noises, types of smells, chemical or sprays used or machinery and machinery noise.