



## **TAYLOR: LABOR'S AGRICULTURE SOLUTION TREATS SYMPTOMS NOT CAUSE**

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Angus Taylor, the coalition candidate for Hume, has waded into the agriculture policy debate by criticising the federal government's lack of vision on agriculture, despite its recently announced agriculture package. Mr Taylor has a high profile on agricultural policy issues, and recently published a landmark report on the issue which has received widespread publicity: "Greener Pastures: The Global Soft Commodity Opportunity for Australia and New Zealand." Mr Taylor has personal farming interests in Hume and elsewhere, in a range of sectors.

Mr Taylor said:

"I am pleased that farmers are getting some assistance at long last - but it is too little too late. However a few million dollars of subsidised loans and some financial counselling is not going to fix much more fundamental problems.

"Despite agriculture currently facing some truly wonderful export opportunities, farmers are not seeing the benefits because of a ridiculously high currency and higher than ever input costs. No-one wants to talk about the elephant in the room, which is how to get our dollar down and our costs down. Elements of this minority government says it is the evil free market at work. I've never heard so much rot in my life.

"Years of economic research into commodity booms tell us governments can and must contain rising costs and currency in situations like ours.

"The answer is clear: reduce debt, drive productivity and avoid cost imposts.

"Meanwhile, this Government is increasing debt, borrowing from offshore, impeding productivity and adding costs, such as the carbon tax.

"My side of politics is determined to address these issues. We will deliver better economic management and higher productivity which inevitably leads to a lower dollar and lower interest rates. We will get rid of the carbon tax, which is impeding many manufacturing businesses, including food manufacturing."

Mr Taylor said that his “Greener Pastures” report emphasised that Australian agriculture has the potential to tap into strengthening markets, particularly in Asia – and that the magnitude of the opportunity is exciting. The “Greener Pastures” report highlights the opportunity for agricultural exports to double by 2050 on the basis that agriculture should be the next sector in Australia to significantly benefit from Asia-led growth.

Mr Taylor recently spoke at the Global Food Forum in Melbourne, and will tell a forum at the ANU tomorrow night that if Australia can get its policy settings right there was an opportunity to more than double agricultural exports. He says that government policy needs to focus on getting a slice of the opportunity – it won’t happen under current policies:

“As well as containing costs, the government needs to get serious about other critical issues for agriculture: a free trade agreement with China, refocusing on R and D and training, and insisting on clarity of land and water rights. We know what the issues are, but we need delivery. This Government seems to think that destroying the live cattle trade, and then throwing some low cost loans at the problem, is good agriculture policy.

“Farmers and farm service providers know that the coalition is the side of politics that really understands these issues. We will get the basics right, and get agriculture back into focus.

“Locally, if elected, I will also work hard on the issues that matter in Hume: re-focusing horticulture around Cowra after the cannery closure, supporting the re-opening of the Young Abattoir, opening up critical new markets in Asian for sectors like sheep-meat and cherries.”

The ‘Greener Pastures: The Global Soft Commodity Opportunity for Australia and New Zealand’ report and an interview with Angus Taylor is available at: [www.anz.com/insight](http://www.anz.com/insight)

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