



# Time to Thrive.



Stronger regions  
for all Australians

Policy Voting Guide



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# Introduction

The NFF's Time to Thrive election priorities chart a basic formula to support the momentum of agriculture and regional Australia.

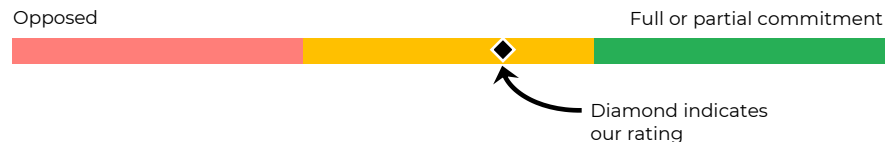
This election, the NFF is calling on voters to choose parties and candidates that support the investments, innovations and policy proposals identified by regional voters as key to the continued success of their businesses and communities.

This Policy Voting Guide is a summary of where each major party stands on these priorities.

Before you cast your vote, we urge you to take the time to critique the responses received and how they stack up against the NFF's Time To Thrive election asks.

## Legend

See the position of the indicator on each issue for a quick guide on how aligned each party is to NFF's Time to Thrive priorities.





# Plan for smarter regional growth



## Establish Regional Development Precincts

- Supportive of NFF's precincts approach, but will develop a more coherent framework for regional development once in office.
- Will reform Regional Development Australia (RDA), with a focus on partnering with local government.
- Critical of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), but no specifics on reform.

- \$500m for a 'Regionalisation Fund' to help regional communities achieve their development objectives.
- \$7.1bn in infrastructure funding (over 11 years) via the Energy Security and Regional Development Plan.
- No specific commitment to a precinct-based regional development framework.
- Significant funding for water projects in the recent Federal Budget – including \$5.4bn provisionally approved for Hells Gate Dam.

- No specific policies regarding regional development.

## Strengthen supply chains

- \$15 billion 'National Reconstruction Fund' will provide loans, equity and guarantees to businesses wanting to expand.
- \$500 million of this fund will be reserved for agricultural projects – focussed on value adding.
- Continued investment in 'Roads to Recovery' and the Heavy Vehicle Safety & Productivity Program.
- Falls short of NFF's requests for regional infrastructure spending.

- Additional \$500m for the Modern Manufacturing Initiative earmarked for regional Australia to support domestic manufacturing.
- \$2bn over the next four years to fund Roads to Recovery, plus \$3.8bn for the Roads of Strategic Importance initiative.

- \$15 billion 'Made in Australia' manufacturing bank to support manufacturing, innovation, industrial decarbonisation and re-localisation of supply chains.

## Boost our global reputation

- Will phase out live sheep exports (timeframe unspecified).
- Will introduce independent Inspector-General for Animal Welfare.
- Committed to long term, sustainable funding to strengthen Australia's biosecurity system.
- Released a market diversification plan, naming Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea as priorities.
- Will continue advocacy at the WTO over the Chinese tariffs on barley and wine.

- Supports the continuation of a sustainable live export trade.
- Commits the Commonwealth to continue a coordinating role on animal welfare in the development of state and territory animal welfare standards and guidelines to promote national consistency.
- \$15m for agricultural trade promotion allocated in recent Federal Budget, including the appointment of a Special Representative for Australian Agriculture.
- Commits to commence stakeholder consultation to ensure biosecurity funding strategies are fit-for-purpose and sustainable, and that biosecurity partners contribute their fair share.

- Would ban all live export of livestock.
- Would introduce an Independent Office of Animal Welfare and establish national animal welfare laws.
- An unspecified amount from the \$24.4 billion 'Green Australia Plan' would be focused on stopping the spread of invasive species, and protecting biosecurity.
- No commitments on trade and market access beyond the live export ban.



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# Partner for a healthier environment



## Measure & reward environmental performance

- No commitment to continue initiatives that measure farmers' environmental performance and create market-based incentives.

- Will re-introduce legislation to establish a national biodiversity stewardship market.
- Continuing to invest in pilots, trading platforms and support services to continue to help farmers participate in environmental markets.

- Will invest \$24.4 billion over the decade under the 'Green Australia Plan'.
- No commitment to utilise a market-based approach to reward landholders.

## Responding to climate change

- Target to reduce emissions by 43% (on 2005 levels) by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050.
- Will use the 'Safeguard Mechanism' to reduce emissions from large emitters over time.
- Will redirect unspent funds from the Emissions Reduction Fund partly towards direct grants for industry decarbonisation (while still purchasing ACCUs).
- \$3bn from the National Reconstruction Fund for commercial emissions reduction opportunities, including livestock feed additives.

- Target to reach net zero by 2050, in addition to Paris commitment to reduce emissions 26-28% (on 2005 levels) by 2030.
- Technology-led approach to reducing emissions without mandates or taxes.
- The Technology Investment Roadmap will guide \$22bn in Government investment over the coming decade - including in low emissions farming technologies.
- \$27m for NRM groups to assist farmers in participating in carbon projects.

- Rapid transition to net-zero by 2035, reaching negative drawdown of 100m tonnes p.a. by 2050.
- \$250m for 'Green Agriculture Australia' – developing and deploying green technologies for farmers.
- Floor price for ACCUs set at \$50 per tonne.

## Sustainable water management

- Will reintroduce buybacks under the MDB Plan to deliver the 450GL.
- Will establish a National Water Commission.
- Will broaden the National Water Grid mandate to include town water supplies.

- Continued implementation of the MDB Plan without further buybacks.
- \$154m to support river systems and the environment within the MDB Plan.

- Will recommence water buybacks – including to recover the 450GL.
- Royal Commission into the MDB Plan.
- Full implementation of recommendations from the SA Royal Commission.

## Investing in landholder partnerships

- Commitment to strengthen Landcare and support regional NRM bodies and indigenous organisations.

- Commitment to work with industry on reform and efficiency of environmental regulation (additional funding of \$139.6m in recent Federal Budget).
- Ongoing commitment to National Landcare Program.

- Committed to significant hardening of environment laws and new 'Independent Watchdog'.
- \$70m for sustainable forestry R&D, plus support for on-farm forestry.



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# Connect every Australian



## Unlocking digital innovation

- \$600 million to fund expanded multi-carrier mobile coverage along roads, as well as for regional homes and businesses and to continue investing in place-based connectivity projects.
- \$480 investment into NBN fixed wireless and satellite services.
- \$30 million to expand on-farm connectivity and enable better wireless extension solutions in-field;
- \$20 million for an independent national audit of mobile coverage to establish an evidence baseline to guide future priorities.
- \$6m to extend the services of the Regional Tech Hub.
- \$16.7m to establish an Agri Tech Hub in Richmond, NSW.

- \$812 million committed to the Connecting Regional Australia initiative, expanding on the Mobile Black Spots and Regional Connectivity Programs.
- \$480m to upgrade NBN fixed wireless and satellite services in regional, remote and peri-urban areas.
- \$30m to establish the National Centre for Digital Agriculture and placing digital officers in Innovation Hubs around Australia.
- In response to the 2021 RTIRC review, committed to commissioning independent audits of mobile coverage.
- \$5m to extend the services of the Regional Tech Hub.

- \$3 billion to re-establish the Communications Fund in perpetuity, with a focus on regional Australia.
- National audit of mobile coverage.
- Expand the ACCC Broadband Monitoring Program to NBN Fixed Wireless and Satellite.

## A fair transition to renewable energy

- Support NFF's position on landowner compensation and engagement with respect to land access for electricity infrastructure.
- \$20bn investment to modernise Australia's energy grid.
- \$200m to establish a network of community batteries.
- \$100m to establish 85 'solar banks' – providing access to solar for those who can't access rooftop solar.

- \$148.6 million to support development of community microgrid projects in regional Australia.

- \$175m over 5 years to create the Australian Local Power Agency.



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# Secure Australia's farm workforce



## Train and attract Australian workers

- Labor will fund 465,000 fee-free TAFE places and 20,000 new university places in fields with agreed skills shortages.
- Will create an independent agency 'Jobs and Skills Australia' to work with industry, unions and training providers on current and future training needs.

- Fund a range of training and promotional programs, including AgCAREERSTART, AgUP and AgMOVE.
- \$2.4bn investment in apprenticeship incentives, with additional wage subsidies for regional employers.

- Will fully fund fee-free TAFE and university.
- Will withdraw government funding for for-profit VET providers.
- Will work with industry on the best path forward for vocational training in agriculture.

## Keep workers safe

- Will increase workplace compliance activities under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme (PALM),
- Will introduce regulation for labour hire companies (with no specifics on implementation).
- No commitments or funding regarding farm safety.

- \$10m committed to National Farm Safety Education Fund Strategy.
- Working towards national harmonisation of labour hire licensing via state and territory schemes.

- No commitments regarding farm safety or labour hire licensing.

## Improve pathways for international workers

- Will scrap the Agricultural Visa in its current form, instead creating a new substream of the PALM – allowing an uncapped number of pacific workers to come to Australia for 4 years.
- Worker's upfront travel costs for Seasonal Worker Program will be met by the Australian Government (i.e less the \$300 employer contribution) and recovered through the tax system.
- Pacific Labour Scheme workers permitted to bring their partners and children to Australia.

- Committed to ongoing maintenance and expansion of the Australian Agriculture Visa, with no specific target for participating partner countries.

- Support the continued roll-out of the Australian Agriculture Visa, including expediting talks with 10 partner nations, so long as protections are included to prevent exploitation.
- Support the reintroduction of Departmental Liaison Officers within farming bodies to assist with visas and migration.



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# Give farmers a fair go



## Strengthen competition laws

- Will outlaw unfair contract terms to protect businesses with <100 employees and turnover <\$10 million.
- Support right to repair measures for farming equipment.

- Has introduced legislation to outlaw unfair contract terms used against small businesses.
- Rolling out grants totalling \$5m to help improve market transparency for perishable goods.
- Will make further announcements regarding a right to repair for farming equipment.

- Support right to repair measures for farming equipment.
- No commitments on broader competition law reforms.

## Tax and investment incentives

- Labor will support all existing legislated tax measures.

- Firm commitment to maintain the Fuel Tax Credits Scheme.
- Improving tax treatment of income generated from environmental services on-farm.
- Have indicated that the Instant Asset Write-Off may not be extended beyond 2023.

- Will maintain the Fuel Tax Credit System for agriculture, but scrap this system for other industries (opposed by the NFF).

The NFF also invited Pauline Hanson's One Nation (PHON), the United Australia Party, Centre Alliance and Climate 200 to respond to Time to Thrive, no response had been received at the time of publication. The Australian Democrats has advised it endorses the Time to Thrive document.

To view the full Time to Thrive election priorities document click [here](#).



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