



20 January 2014

Ms C McDonald  
Secretary  
Standing Committee on Environment  
and Communications References Committee  
via Email [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms McDonald

### **Inquiry into the Government's Direct Action Plan**

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the above Inquiry.

The NFF observes that this Inquiry may appear to be somewhat premature, because it is subject to the successful repeal of the Carbon Tax, including that the Government is still in the process of implementing this election commitment. The NFF does not support the carbon tax due to the significant flow on impacts to agriculture (as an uncovered sector). Therefore, the NFF supports its repeal.

The Government's Direct Action Plan includes a number of policy imperatives:

- Emissions Reduction Fund;
- 20 Million Trees;
- One Million Solar Panel Roofs; and
- Solar Towns and Solar Schools.

The first two policies are of most interest to NFF. Regarding the 20 Million Trees, providing it remains a voluntary program, and does not target planting trees on productive agricultural land, the NFF supports this initiative. Moreover, NFF understands that this program is targeted to "re-establish urban forests and corridors".

The NFF supports the principles espoused of the Direct Action Plan and believes that, at present, it is premature to assess the impact or potential impact of the program.

Recently, the Government released the Green Paper for the Emissions Reduction Fund. The NFF intends to make a submission on the Green Paper and participate fully in the White Paper process. NFF intends to work constructively with the Government

to develop the right framework for encouraging land sector based emissions reduction in the design of the Direct Action Plan, and Emissions Reduction Fund in particular.

Yours sincerely

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**MATT LINNEGAR**  
**Chief Executive Officer**