

Implementing agencies and divisions within the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) for measures in the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper	
Topic	Implementing agency
Oversight and coordination of implementation of White Paper	The department – Corporate Strategy and Governance Division
A fairer go for farm businesses	
Fairer competition for farm produce	
\$11.4 million over four years to boost Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) engagement with the agricultural sector including a new commissioner dedicated to agriculture	ACCC – Treasury (overseen within the department by Agricultural Policy Division)
\$13.8 million for a two-year pilot programme to provide farmers with knowledge and materials on cooperatives, collective bargaining and innovative business models	The department – Agricultural Policy Division
Better regulation	
\$20.4 million to further streamline the approval of agricultural and veterinary chemicals	The department – Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division
Productivity Commission inquiry into reducing regulation in Australian agriculture	Productivity Commission – Treasury (overseen within the department by ABARES)
Productivity Commission inquiry into reducing regulation in the marine fisheries and aquaculture industries	Productivity Commission – Treasury (overseen within the department by Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division)
Improved Country of Origin Labelling	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the department – Agricultural Policy Division
A better tax system for farm businesses	
Allowing farmers to opt back into income tax averaging	Treasury (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
Increase the deposit limit for Farm Management Deposits (FMDs) to \$800,000	
Allowing FMD accounts to be used as a farm business loan offset	
A more simplified accelerated depreciation regime for fencing (at a cost of \$56 million)	
Building the infrastructure of the 21st Century	
\$500 million for developing the nation's water infrastructure	The department – Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division
\$1 million for improvements to the CSIRO's TRANsport Network Strategic Investment Tool (TRANSIT) to support future Government infrastructure investment	CSIRO – Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (overseen in the department by ABARES)

Strengthening our approach to drought and risk management	
Preparing for drought	
\$3.3 million for improved seasonal forecasting	Bureau of Meteorology – Department of Environment (overseen in the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
Immediate tax deduction for new water facilities and depreciation of capital expenditure on fodder storage assets over three years (at a cost of \$86 million)	Treasury (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
\$29.9 million over four years for farm insurance advice and risk assessment grants	The department – Farm Support and Forestry Division
In-drought support	
Up to \$250 million a year in drought concessional loans for 11 years	The department – Farm Support and Forestry Division
\$22.8 million for increasing case management and the activity supplement for recipients in the third year of payment for the Farm Household Allowance	Department of Human Services (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
\$1.8 million for additional resources for Rural Financial Counselling Service providers in drought-affected areas (for 2015–16)	The department – Farm Support and Forestry Division
\$20 million for additional mental health and community support services for rural communities in drought-affected areas	Department of Social Services (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
Early access provisions for the Farm Management Deposits Scheme in times of drought	Treasury (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
Advice and assistance from the Australian Taxation Office to taxpayers in drought-affected communities	Treasury (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
\$35 million for local projects to provide short-term help to communities that are suffering economic downturn due to drought	Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (overseen within the department by Farm Support and Forestry Division)
\$25.8 million over four years to help the State and Territory governments manage pest animals and weeds in drought-affected areas	The department – Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division

Farming smarter	
Development of clear, farmer-oriented priorities to target rural RD&E funding	The department – Agricultural Policy Division
\$100 million to extend the Rural R&D for Profit programme to 2021–22	
Improving the efficiency of RDCs by improving governance	
\$1.4 million over four years to match new agricultural production levies in the export fodder and tea tree oil industries. \$1.2 million over four years in additional funding will also be provided to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation for RD&E in small agricultural industries	
\$50 million to boost our emergency pest and disease eradication and national response capability	The department – Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division
\$50 million to manage established pest animals and weeds	
Accessing premium markets	
\$30.8 million to break down technical barriers to trade, including through the appointment of five new agriculture counsellors in key markets	The department – Trade and Market Access Division
\$200 million to improve biosecurity surveillance and analysis to better target critical biosecurity risks, including in northern Australia	The department – Biosecurity Policy and Implementation Division
\$12.4 million to modernise Australia’s traceability systems, verify produce integrity and secure access to overseas markets	The department – Exports Division

Implementing agencies and divisions within the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) for measures in the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia

White Paper on Developing Northern Australia	
Topic	Implementing agency
Oversight and coordination of implementation of Department of Agriculture and Water Resources related White Paper measures	The department – Corporate Strategy and Governance Division
Commitment to increase biosecurity activities of Indigenous Ranger groups	The department – Service Delivery Division
Cutting red tape for fisheries	The department - Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division
A Productivity Commission Inquiry into fisheries and aquaculture regulation	Productivity Commission – Treasury (overseen within the department by Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Division)

