



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



FAMILY FIRST CALLS FOR NATIONAL AGRICULTURE STIMULUS PACKAGE

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FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has called upon the Federal Government to create an agricultural stimulus package to drive the Australian economy, save regional jobs and ensure national food security.

“Stimulating agriculture has a multiplier effect for our economy”, said Mr Brokenshere – a state Legislative Councillor but also a Mt Compass dairy farmer - “For instance dairy has a baseline benefit of \$3 billion for the Australian economy – but value adding from that sees it worth \$10 billion. At present, the Free Trade excitement of previous years has evaporated and domestic farmers in the European Union and the United States are pressuring their governments to be more protectionist and abandon Free Trade. Consequently, we are seeing foreign governments subsidising their domestic farmers’ products and dumping them on Australian markets”

“Regrettably, as we face a global economic crisis, Australian consumers may also go for price before loyalty to Australian farmers – in my case with dairy, whilst the removal of the dairy adjustment levy will temporarily reduce prices by 11c / Litre and be good for families, in the long term all farmers are going to find it very difficult to compete without an agricultural stimulus package”

“We are facing two global crises right now – the food crisis and the economic crisis. Australia needs food security, and has the know-how, ability and willingness to produce quality food for the Australian market and export”

Conventional economic wisdom is that two or three quarters of consecutive negative economic growth equals a Recession*. However, the September quarter’s figures were prevented from negative growth by a strong agricultural sector (rising 14.2% in the quarter compared, largely, to minimal growth or negative growth in other sectors).

“With a lowering Aussie dollar, agriculture has a massive opportunity in our nation, which will give us economic and food security in the current global financial crisis”

“Providing the Government play the same game as the European Union and the USA, sustainable Australian agriculture has the potential to help our economy out of the global economic crisis”

“Treasurer Swan said on morning radio today that all options are on the table – well agricultural stimulus has to be one of them”