

I have had a chance to have a quick read and to be honest, the people drafting this missed an opportunity to do something constructive, instead they have delivered a "back to the future" report that just rehashes all the old tried and true but failed programs.

- There is no tax incentive to build grain and hay storages as currently their 25 + year write off period, this is a real Disincentive to invest in them. Zero tillage equipment has a 7 to 8 year write off period, water conveying has a three year write off. There is no incentive here!

- Retention of the 5 year gifting provisions effect on access to the aged pension and aged care facility daily fees will ensure that farm succession is greatly reduced in the future. This can only have one effect, a greater labour drift away from the farming sector and regional areas but this probably goes hand in hand with Government policy anyway, I don't know?

- FMD's should be accessible you trusts at least the active working beneficiaries. I see no logical argument why this is not the case, maybe you could enlighten me?

- Farm Biz was a rort before and it will be a rort now. I'll tell you how they price these "workshops", these so called experts who run these workshops work out how much the farmers will be willing to pay and then double it or times it by the size of the subsidy. The farmer still doesn't have the capacity to implement any change because they do not have access to reasonable funding schemes such as the RAA loan schemes.

- Young farmers who try and support them selves cannot get access to the RAA loans for three years, thus stopping them from drought proofing their properties for three years. News flash most business fail in the first two years, primarily due to lack of access to capital.

I am sorry for being so critical but I feel your department has just wasted a lot of time and money delivering a absolute dud which in the long term will result in driving farmers from the land. Yes quite a few should go but this report will deliver a substantial amount of "collateral damage".

Regards,

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