



COVID-19 POSITION STATEMENT

**FARMING AND
AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY
CHAIN: CLASSIFICATION AS
ESSENTIAL SERVICES**



WHAT WE BELIEVE & OUR ACTION PLAN

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party, and the broader community, accept that the gradual tightening of restrictions being imposed by Federal and State Governments, and the enforcement thereof, is both necessary and responsible governance to control the spread of COVID-19 in the current state of pandemic.

It is anticipated that further tightening of restrictions may potentially be imposed if the spread of COVID-19 fails to substantially lessen in spite of the current restrictions and measures in place.

However, elements of the agricultural chain are now being affected directly and indirectly by COVID-19 and it is starting to impact livestock sales and the market.

A recently reported example is the closures of regional sale yards.

This is now having a detrimental impact on the domestic livestock industry including the interruption of the supply of livestock for the restocking of farms, increasing the cost and complexity of livestock transport, interfering with equitable sales and purchases, increasing pressures on existing infrastructure and services at sale yards which are still operating, impacting the domestic and export meat markets and driving up the price and availability of meat as an essential food source.

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that we must maintain, with appropriate controls, the consistent supply of all food, fibre and other primary industry produce to the domestic and export market.

Market and consumer confidence must be maintained to ensure NSW's position as a global leading supplier of primary industry products. Primary production now requires full government support for its continued



OUR ACTION PLAN - continued

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Primary production now requires full government support for its continued operation. We will seek the continued and government supported operation of the farming and agricultural industry which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. All primary production and agriculture
2. All water supplies, including carting services
3. All freight, transport, fuel and logistics to support primary production
4. All sale yards and services to facilitate accessible and equitable sales to all sellers and all buyers
5. Stock food and farm supply businesses
6. Abattoirs
7. Shearing sheds
8. Fruit, vegetable, nut and fibre sorting/packing/storage sheds
9. Refrigeration
10. Canning, bottling, boxing and processing facilities
11. Silos and grain/fodder bunkers



OUR ACTION PLAN - continued

12. Farm or primary production related chemical supply and application equipment

13. Farm machinery, parts and servicing

14. Farm and transport infrastructure, equipment, parts and servicing

15. Professional kangaroo shooting, harvesting and processing

16. Veterinarian supplies and services

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party believe that all farming, agriculture and primary production are vitally important and seek these industries, and ancillary industries which support them, to be classified as essential services and be exempted from future COVID-19 related closures.

Farming and the gamut of primary production industries across NSW and adjacent states industries have suffered heavily as a result of recent and unprecedented bushfires, and the worst drought in living history, which continues to prevail across large parts of NSW. Primary production now requires full government support for continued operation.

The agricultural sectors is already required to implement stringent measures to comply with other restrictions at their place of business, such as social distancing and strict hygiene measures, and this is expected to continue to allow the ongoing provision of essential produce which the people of Australia rely on to live, in addition to maintaining one of the largest and most important industries we have.