

8 February 2010

What would you do if you were Minister for Agriculture?

If you've ever thought 'I could do a better job if I was Minister for Agriculture', then this is your chance. The Australian Farm Institute is giving you the opportunity to tell the world what you think Australia's agriculture policies should look like – and win \$500!

If you were the Australian Minister for Agriculture, what would be your goals for the future of Australian agriculture, and what measures or programs would you implement to achieve them?

Given that 2010 is an election year, this is a great opportunity for all armchair agricultural policy-makers to have their views heard and put in front of politicians at a critical time. Who knows – perhaps some of your policy ideas might even be adopted and implemented! The winning contributions will be printed in the May edition of the Farm Policy Journal along with those of other invited contributors.

Entrants in the competition are required to write a short essay titled 'If I were the Australian Minister for Agriculture...'. A judging panel consisting of Institute staff and senior policy-makers will have the task of selecting two winning entries. Participants in the competition must be either full-time farmers, tertiary students or agribusiness participants.

The authors of the two winning entries will receive a cash prize of \$500, and a complimentary one year full membership to the Australian Farm Institute (valued at \$275).

Your essay should focus specifically on agriculture (excluding fisheries and forestry). It should contain an initial statement about your overall objectives for the agriculture sector over the next five years, and then detail policies and programs you would implement or the things you would change to help achieve those objectives. The main focus should obviously be on new ideas and policies that you think would be an advantage for the sector.

"This competition is about giving farmers and agribusiness participants the opportunity to get their ideas seen by senior policy-makers. We are looking for contributions which propose fresh ideas or improvements that will help the sector to grow," said Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute.

"The essay will ideally address issues that impact on the full range of sub-sectors involved in Australian agriculture, and will need to find the right balance between ideas that are new and bold, and ideas that are practical.

"AFI staff will be available to provide limited assistance and editing tips for anyone that would like them."

Entries close 5pm on Friday 26th March. For all the entry details, including terms and conditions, please go to the Australian Farm Institute website.

Ends

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