

Winton Debt Crisis Summit resolutions

Drought and other natural disasters

- 1) That the current Drought Assistance approach is a failure and this approach is rejected outright as manifestly inadequate
- 2) That the meeting calls on the Council of Australian Governments to convene an inclusive working group (within a month) to develop a new approach to drought and other periods of natural disaster consistent with the WTO Agreement on Agriculture framework
- 3) That the new approach support stressed agricultural businesses by providing:
 - Prompt direct funding assistance
 - Simple conditions of access
 - Low interest loans
 - Greater certainty as to the availability of assistance
 - A form similar to the previous QRAA model, and
 - Other features arising from subsequent industry deliberations
- 4) That governments increase the number of Rural Financial Counselling and other support services in the state of Qld and place them appropriately around the state.

Industry Repositioning

- 5) That Australian farmer incomes and profitability be made central to government policies, including in a reworking of the inadequate Agriculture Green Paper
- 6) That the Senate Economics Legislation Committee proceed in its enquiry into the Reserve Bank of Australia Amendment (ARDB) Bill as a matter of urgency
- 7) That the Federal Government commit to the provision of finance to fund the reconstruction and development of Australian Industry with urgent attention to rural industries and infrastructure
- 8) That the State government provide affordable Risk Mitigation Insurance to give effective cover against natural disasters

Economy

- 9) That interest rates are excessive and incompatible with sustainable production, industry profitability and international competitiveness. The Federal Government to work towards reducing interest rates.

10) That the Australian dollar is un-competitively high and calls on the federal government and the Reserve Bank to put in place methods to compensate Australian industries and reduce the dollar.

Moratorium

11) That governments and banks immediately enact a moratorium on forced farm sales until effective action is taken on the resolutions above

Representation

12) That the meeting supports the Winton/Western Rural Crisis Committee in its efforts to advance these issues and relevant other issues subsequently raised with appropriate industry and government representatives and agencies.