

# Speak Up Campaign Inc.

Inc 1800187

[speakup4water@gmail.com](mailto:speakup4water@gmail.com)



**Tony Maher and Fiona Simson**

**National Farmers' Federation**

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[fsimson@nff.org.au](mailto:fsimson@nff.org.au)

April 1, 2020

Dear Fiona and Tony,

We understand that NFF want to assist the government in helping to keep the general public from becoming concerned about the supply of staple foods and from bulk / panic buying. We all agree that individual stockpiling is not beneficial to the nation as a whole.

We also acknowledge that Australian farmers are capable of producing enough food to feed 75 million people. However, this cannot be achieved without irrigated agriculture (which has been decimated by the Murray Darling Basin Plan and poor water policy decisions). Those at the coal face of producing staple foods have major concerns about the accuracy of this number under the current conditions, numbers which are handpicked by those in the concrete jungle and may not be up to date or a true indication of the current conditions.

The NFF is a funded body with paid employees, unlike volunteer organisations as ourselves. As you have greater access to data and resources we wonder if you could provide us with an updated appraisal of industry production, imports and exports in Australia to alleviate our concerns about the current production capabilities of staple foods in Australia.

- Of all the food produced in Australia what percentage is produced on land owned by foreign companies / countries?
- Of all the food produced in Australia what percentage is exported overseas?
- Can you please confirm what percentage of Australia's food production comes out of the Murray Darling Basin for
  - The last 30 year period
  - The last 10 year period
  - The last 2 year period
- Can you please determine what percentage of the following was produced in the Murray Darling Basin for the following periods
  - Rice – last 30 years, last 10 years, last 2 years
  - Dairy – last 30 years, last 10 years, last 2 years
  - Wheat – last 30 years, last 10 years, last 2 years
  - Citrus – last 30 years, last 10 years, last 2 years
  - Almonds – last 30 years, last 10 years, last 2 years
  - Cotton – last 30 years, last 10 years, last 2 years

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- Can you please provide production numbers, import number and export numbers for the following staple foods over the last two years and last 10 years in the MDB –
  - Fruit
  - Vegetables
  - Rice
  - Dairy
  - Wheat
  - Pork

We look forward to receiving the above information to help us understand the exact impacts of water policy changes and the Murray Darling Basin Plan on the production of staple foods in the southern basin over the last two years.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shelley Scoullar".

Shelley Scoullar

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