

Victorian
Farmers
Federation

BACK VICTORIAN FARMERS

VFF 2026 VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION PLATFORM

A five-point plan to grow production,
cut costs and back our regions.

OUR FIVE-POINT PLAN

Through consultation with our grassroots networks across Victoria, we have set five priorities and fifteen commitments that we are seeking from every party and candidate at the 2026 Victorian election.

01 REMOVE UNFAIR TAXES AND REGULATION

Stop treating farmland as a source of new state revenue.

- Ditch the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund.
- Commit to no new taxes targeting farmers and farmland.
- Establish a red tape reduction plan specific to agriculture.

MORE ON PAGE 06

02 REBUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT CARRIES OUR RURAL ECONOMY

Fix the roads, rail and ports that carry Victoria's produce.

- Commit an additional \$2 billion in roads funding over four years.
- Release road condition data annually, with a transparent strategy to clear the maintenance backlog.
- Fund a dedicated Victorian Agricultural Freight Strategy across road, rail and ports.

MORE ON PAGE 07

03 PROTECT PRODUCTIVE LAND AND SECURE OUR WATER

Protect farmland in law, and give communities a real say.

- Appoint a Land Use and Food Security Commissioner to track and report on farmland loss, and introduce mandatory agricultural impact assessments for major projects.
- Take VNI West and the Western Renewables Link back to the drawing board.
- Deliver the Western Victoria water security and pipeline strategy, and continue the fight against federal water buybacks.

MORE ON PAGE 08

04 DEFEND VICTORIA'S FARMS

Be ready for a biosecurity emergency, and protect the right to farm.

- Upgrade and expand the regional truck wash network to limit the spread of disease.
- Lift wild dog and vertebrate pest control, with coordinated action across public and private land.
- Establish Right to Farm laws to protect commercial farming across Victoria.

MORE ON PAGE 09

05 BACK COMMUNITIES AND THE NEXT GENERATION

Build the workforce and the communities that farming depends on.

- Expand regional TAFE agriculture training and industry-led career pathways.
- Deliver the childcare, healthcare and housing that keep farming families in the regions.
- Introduce tougher penalties for rural crime, unlawful farm trespass and biosecurity breaches.

MORE ON PAGE 10

ACCOUNTABILITY

We will score the parties on every one of these.

Before polling day we will publish a scorecard showing where the major parties stand — so Victorians can see who is backing agriculture.

MORE ON PAGE 11



BACKING THE PEOPLE WHO FEED VICTORIA

RYAN MILGATE

President — Victorian Farmers Federation

Victorian farmers have spent generations building one of the most productive food and fibre economies in the world. Like most farmers, we have seen the good years and the bad, and we have seen what our sector can achieve when it is given the right conditions.

Yet too often we are held back by needless bureaucracy, contradictory rules, rising costs and decisions made without any real understanding of life at the farm gate. This election is a chance to change that.

Backing Victorian Farmers is a practical, five-point plan built through consultation with our grassroots networks across the state. It is available to any party or candidate willing to work with us to unlock the full potential of regional Victoria.

“Farmers are problem-solvers by nature. Give us the right settings, get the barriers out of the way, and we will deliver a stronger, more productive Victoria for generations to come.”



WHY PRIORITISE AGRICULTURE?

A SECTOR VICTORIA CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE

Victorian farmers work just 3 per cent of Australia's agricultural land, yet produce almost a quarter of the nation's farm output by value. Victoria is the country's largest exporter of food and fibre, and its largest producer of dairy, sheep meat and horticulture. Exports have grown four years running.

Food and fibre makes up around 60 per cent of everything Victoria sells overseas. The sector supports 153,840 jobs, and more than half of those are in food and beverage manufacturing, the largest manufacturing sector in the state.

Government policy does not reflect any of this. Farm businesses are carrying new taxes, compliance obligations written without reference to the farm gate, freight routes that no longer match

Agriculture is central to Victoria's economic future, and it has enormous capacity to grow. The right settings and support are critical to unleashing that potential. how agriculture operates, and the steady loss of productive land.

STRENGTH ACROSS EVERY SECTOR

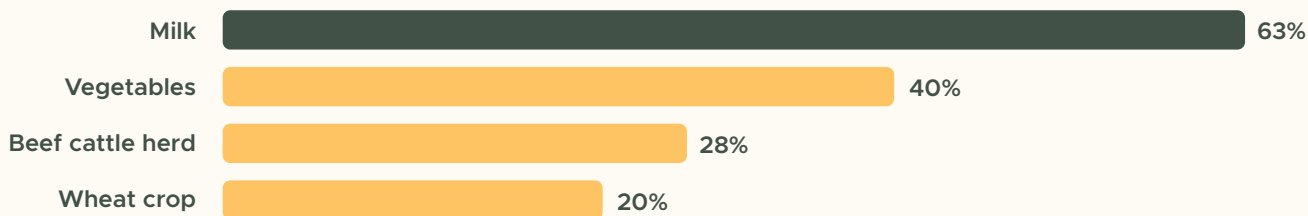
Victoria is the nation's largest producer of dairy, sheep meat and horticulture, and a powerhouse in grain — a breadth that spreads risk and drives export growth.

VICTORIAN AGRICULTURE AT A GLANCE



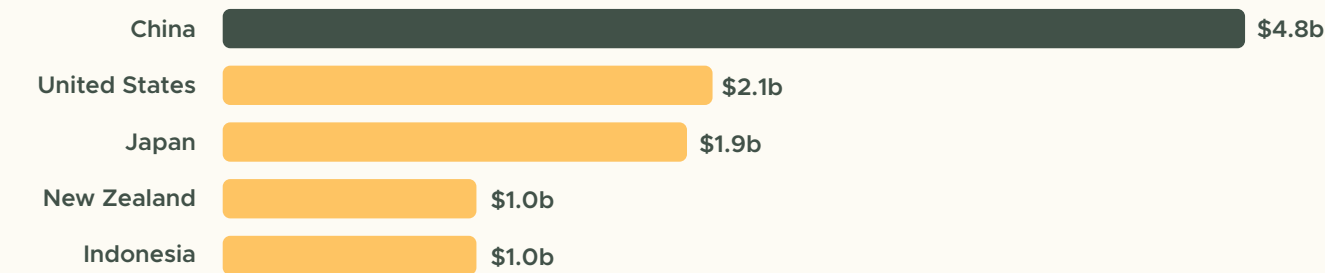
WHY BACKING AGRICULTURE MATTERS

Victoria's share of national production, selected commodities.



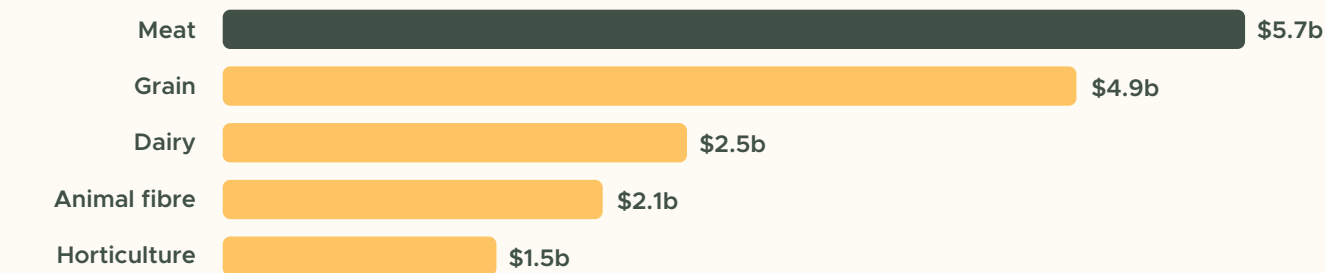
WHERE VICTORIA'S EXPORTS GO

Top export markets for Victorian food and fibre, by value (2023-24).



WHAT OUR LAND PRODUCES

Victorian food and fibre exports by commodity, \$ billion (2023-24).



REMOVE UNFAIR TAXES AND REGULATION

Stop treating farmland as a source of new state revenue.



Farm businesses already pay income tax, GST and council rates, often for services that never reach the farm gate. Yet farmers are increasingly treated as a soft target for new state revenue.

The expanded Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund is the clearest example: a levy that falls hardest on the landholders who already give the most to their communities. On top of it sits a growing burden of regulation and compliance written without reference to how farms actually operate.

Growth does not come from new taxes. It comes from settings that let farmers and communities grow.

\$22.1 BILLION

in Victorian food and fibre exports in 2024–25 — the largest of any state.

OUR THREE COMMITMENTS TO EVERY PARTY AND CANDIDATE:

1. Ditch the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund.
2. Commit to no new taxes targeting farmers and farmland.
3. Establish a red tape reduction plan specific to agriculture.

REBUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT CARRIES OUR RURAL ECONOMY

Fix the roads, rail and ports that carry Victoria's produce.



Every tonne of Victorian produce depends on infrastructure to reach a market. Regional roads, rail corridors and ports are the backbone of the rural economy, but years of underinvestment have left a growing maintenance backlog and freight routes that no longer match how agriculture operates.

Farmers see the cost every day in longer journeys, damaged vehicles and produce that is harder and more expensive to move. A clear, funded plan for agricultural freight — backed by transparent road-condition data — would lift productivity across the whole supply chain.

Victoria's infrastructure should strengthen agricultural competitiveness, not hold it back.

153,840 JOBS

in Victorian farming and food manufacturing rely on freight that works.

OUR THREE COMMITMENTS TO EVERY PARTY AND CANDIDATE:

1. Commit an additional \$2 billion in roads funding over four years.
2. Release road condition data annually, with a transparent strategy to clear the maintenance backlog. Establish a red tape reduction plan specific to agriculture.
3. Fund a dedicated Victorian Agricultural Freight Strategy across road, rail and ports.

PROTECT PRODUCTIVE LAND AND SECURE OUR WATER

Protect farmland in law, and give communities a real say.



Productive farmland is not a renewable resource. Once it is rezoned, fragmented or built over, it is gone for good. Victoria's best agricultural land is under relentless pressure from urban sprawl, poorly planned energy projects and the steady loss of productive country.

Major transmission projects like VNI West and the Western Renewables Link have been pushed onto farming communities with too little consultation and too little regard for the land they cross. Communities deserve a real say, and productive farmland deserves protection in law.

Water security is just as critical. Western Victoria needs its water security and pipeline strategy delivered, and Victorian irrigators need a government prepared to stand firm against federal water buybacks that strip production from the system.

Victoria cannot build its future by sacrificing the land and water that feed it.

ALMOST A QUARTER

of Australia's farm output by value is produced in Victoria.

OUR THREE COMMITMENTS TO EVERY PARTY AND CANDIDATE:

1. Appoint a Land Use and Food Security Commissioner to track and report on farmland loss, and introduce mandatory agricultural impact assessments for major projects. Commit to no new taxes targeting farmers and farmland.
2. Take VNI West and the Western Renewables Link back to the drawing board.
3. Deliver the Western Victoria water security and pipeline strategy, and continue the fight against federal water buybacks.

DEFEND VICTORIA'S FARMS

Be ready for a biosecurity emergency, and protect the right to farm.



Biosecurity is not a theoretical risk. A single incursion of a disease like foot-and-mouth could shut export markets overnight and inflict lasting damage on Victoria's economy, food security and animal welfare. Preparedness has to work at the farm gate, not just on paper.

At the same time, wild dogs and vertebrate pests are costing farmers production and damaging the land, and established farms are increasingly exposed to conflict as other land uses move in around them. A clear Right to Farm framework would protect legitimate commercial farming across the state.

Biosecurity is the line between a thriving sector and a shut export market.

FOUR YEARS

of consecutive export growth
a sector worth defending.

OUR THREE COMMITMENTS TO EVERY PARTY AND CANDIDATE:

1. Upgrade and expand the regional truck wash network to limit the spread of disease.
2. Lift wild dog and vertebrate pest control, with coordinated action across public and private land.
3. Establish Right to Farm laws to protect commercial farming across Victoria.

BACK COMMUNITIES AND THE NEXT GENERATION

Build the workforce and the communities that farming depends on.



Agriculture cannot grow without skilled people and strong communities. Farm businesses are struggling to find workers, and too many young people leave the regions because the training, services and housing simply are not there.

Backing the next generation means practical, industry-led training and clear career pathways. It means giving farming families the childcare, healthcare and housing they need to stay and thrive. And it means taking rural crime seriously, so farmers are safe on their own land.

Give farmers the tools and the people, and they will deliver a stronger Victoria for generations to come.

60 PER CENT

of everything Victoria sells overseas is food and fibre.

OUR THREE COMMITMENTS TO EVERY PARTY AND CANDIDATE:

1. Expand regional TAFE agriculture training and industry-led career pathways.
2. Deliver the childcare, healthcare and housing that keep farming families in the regions. Establish Right to Farm laws to protect commercial farming across Victoria.
3. Introduce tougher penalties for rural crime, unlawful farm trespass and biosecurity breaches.

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK. EVERY FARM. EVERY SEASON.

Give farmers the right settings, get the barriers out of the way, and we will deliver a stronger, more productive Victoria for generations to come.



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