

**Submission  
No 42**

## **FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY IN NSW**

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Increasingly we are experiencing major climate extremes, mainly through prolonged drought conditions. This affects the stability of our food supply.

For this reason it is essential that we give preference to dry crops like sorghum and versatile crops like hemp, as well as a wide variety of legumes. It has been shown by the UN FAO that animal agriculture contributes to food insecurity, climate change, resource waste and the degradation of land, fresh water and ocean environments. I believe that it is imperative to reduce our reliance on animal agriculture and transition to an essentially plant-based agricultural economy. I therefore request that the committee recommend the government to do the following:

- acknowledge the many ways that animal agriculture causes damage to the planet and how this impacts food security
- shift government food purchases to 100% plant-based
- assist the development of new plant-based industries, particularly value-added export industries
- support a just transition of the agricultural system away from animal production to other uses of the land, specifically dry crops, legumes and hemp
- encourage a move towards healthy plant-based diets which will improve public health
- ensure that vested interests do not influence public policy

The climate conditions are only going to get worse so it is vital that we address this in our food production system.