

Ag & Vet Weekly



Monday May 16 – Friday May 20, 2022

All the news on ASX-listed agriculture and veterinary companies

Ag & Vet Weekly Federal Election Editorial

Ag & Vet Weekly refrains from editorials, holding the view that our readers are as well-informed as we are.

But this Federal Election is a watershed in Australia's history.

The Liberal National Party Government has not been good for the agricultural and veterinary sectors for two major reasons: Climate Change and China.

The greatest threat to the planet, our farms and oceans is the failure to ameliorate Global Warming. It is real and it is here. We have no choice but to act.

The National Party represents mining interests, not farmers and certainly not innovation.

We have been gravely disappointed by the flood of media releases from Agriculture Minister David Littleproud, which often attack the Labor Opposition, which is not in power, or even Labor states, rather than promoting what he is doing for the industry.

The plethora of drought and flood relief announcements are embarrassing, when one considers the destruction by the National Party's John Anderson of the Farmgate Levy leading to a privatization and sale to off-shore interests of the Australian Wheat Board.

Labor's Farmgate Levy meant grain farmers had a reserve in bad years. Mr Anderson used it to provide voting shares for the privatized Wheat Board, which no longer exists.

Finally, the Government kicking our number one customer in the face over Covid beggars belief.

We are told that Mr Morrison was provided "intelligence" that US President Donald Trump would be re-elected and an attack on China by Australia would curry favor.

Our Foreign Minister Marise Payne lit the fuse, calling for an inquiry into the Wuhan origin of Sars-Cov-2, followed by the Trade Minister Simon Birmingham further insulting China.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, exports to China increased 21.3 percent to \$179.3 billion in the year to December 31, 2021, but as a proportion of all exports fell from 40.7 percent to 39.1 percent, as all exports rose.

Beef fell 12.7 percent; wheat rose 51.9 percent to \$1.2 billion, but \$504.9 million of barley was wiped to nothing. Alcoholic beverages tumbled 93.7 percent.

Crustaceans fell from half a billion dollars to \$93.5 million. Wood, coal, crude petroleum, pharmaceuticals, and veterinary products were hit hard, but wool, iron ore and natural gas all improved.

Curiously, we exported \$7.0 billion of gold to China and \$5.05 billion of “confidential items of trade”, which probably means weapons of some sort.

Labor’s expected Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong has her work cut out for her, should Labor win the election.

Our view is that Labor, the Greens and the “teal” independents are all superior options to the LNP, which has done innovators no favors.

The Greens have the best policies on innovation and saving the planet, and might just push Labor into taking real action on Climate Change.

David Langsam
Editor