

MEDIA RELEASE

Date of release: 22 August 2013

Embargo:

GREEN IS THE COLOUR WHEN IT COMES TO FAIR FOOD

The Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFSA) today released the results of its Fair Food Electoral Scorecard, and it doesn't look good for labor or the Coalition.

The Scorecard rates Australia's three major parties according to the values, principles and proposals for a fair food system. The components of such a system were laid out in the AFSA's Peoples' Food Plan.

In June this year, AFSA sent a survey to the parties to gauge the extent of their commitment to a fair, sustainable and democratic food system across eight main indicators:

- transitioning to sustainable and viable farming systems
- optimising the health and wellbeing of all Australians
- prioritising food and farming in planning instruments
- tackling food insecurity and food injustice
- tackling corporate concentration and creating a more diverse food retail ecosystem
- supporting fairness for small-scale farmers abroad, especially women
- promoting fairer trading systems
- promoting inclusive and participatory governance frameworks for food and agriculture.

"We want to let our members and the broader voting public know where the parties stand on the key issues of fairness and sustainability in our food system", said AFSA spokesperson Dr Nick Rose.

"In a nutshell, only the Greens have developed the sort of integrated policy approach we believe is needed to meet the serious food supply challenges we face in the coming years and decades.

"The Coalition more so than the government has a relentless and myopic focus on increasing productivity and boosting exports regardless of the social or environmental cost.

"This is very disappointing, particularly when there are such good precedents of how to support a fairer, more dynamic and more sustainable food economy in the United States, Canada and Britain, among other places", said Dr Rose.

"The Greens have looked to good practice in the US — where it has long enjoyed bipartisan support — and adapted it for the Australian context. That's why they scored 77.25 percent in our survey."

Dr Rose said that regional food economies are supported by Democrats and Republicans in the US because they make good social, environmental and economic sense. This is now an area above partisan politics.

"We want to see it reach that status in Australia", Dr Rose concluded.



FOR INTERVIEW:

- Nick Rose P: 0414 497 819
E: nick.rose@australianfoodsovereigntyalliance.org

INFORMATION:

- **AFSA:** australianfoodsovereigntyalliance.org
- **Electoral Scorecard** can be downloaded here
<http://www.australianfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/blog/2013/08/21/afsa-electoral-scorecard/>
- **Peoples' Food Plan**
<http://www.australianfoodsovereigntyalliance.org/peoples-food-plan/>

ABOUT AFSA:

- As a growing national organisation consisting of individuals, community food groups, farmers, social enterprises working in food processing and distribution, food cooperatives, small food business and academics, AFSA has developed a People's Food Plan as a viable counterpoint to Canberra's National Food Plan.