

## **Election 2023 – Survey Response – Sustain: The Australian Food Network**

NSW Labor understands the importance of food security and the development of a sustainable and productive food and fibre sector is a central goal that guides all our policies.

Based on the three pillars of food security, of ensuring economic security for producers, securing the food and fibre sector against the impacts of climate change, and creating a robust biosecurity system, we believe our policies will create a fairer food system that centres on the health of the community and the environment.

NSW Labor will appoint a NSW Dairy & Fresh Food Commissioner. The new Commissioner will become a full-time statutory appointment with legislated powers, independent of Government, to ensure a continuing viable dairy and fresh produce industry in NSW.

In the first year, the Commissioner will be tasked with developing:

- An effective mediation and arbitration process for NSW farmers in consultation with local industry and the ACCC (in conjunction with the mandatory code for dairy);
- A truth in labelling policy for fresh food and dairy; and
- A model uniform national standard to deliver consistency in testing, sampling and the calibration of equipment used in fresh milk production to ensure a fair farm price.

The Commissioner would work with dairy farmers to review best practice business models, review contracts and plans for long term industry sustainability, better competition and succession planning. They would also investigate ways to provide better access to the Farm Innovation Fund and develop a long-term research and development strategy for the industry.

NSW Labor will provide more protection for our best farmland. We will legislate and properly implement an independent NSW Agriculture Commissioner to identify and protect State significant agricultural land, as well as the numerous issues around renewable energy. This is a fundamental aspect of food security and the creation of a more productive and sustainable agriculture industry in NSW.

We will also initiate a process to develop Treaty making processes to address agreement making. It is envisaged that these discussions will look at a broad range of issues. A Labor Government would be committed to greater self-determination and employment through Aboriginal owned businesses and enterprises.

Labor also wants to see NSW schools embracing sustainability and supports the creation of edible gardens on public school sites.

NSW Labor thanks you for your ongoing advocacy and we look forward to working with you and maintaining ongoing dialogue, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of NSW.