



## ELECTION PRIORITIES & RESPONSES FACT SHEET

In February 2025, the Organic Development Group (ODG) sent each major party, Labor, Liberal, National and the Greens a list of key priorities for the organic industry in with a request for a commitment from each party to support them.

The four priorities identified by the ODG and agreed to by organic operators included:

- Pass domestic regulation of the Australian organic industry within 12 months of election.
- Accelerate market access for organic exports.
- Invest in data collection to measure the organic industry's positive environmental and health impacts and its potential to accelerate Australia's progress towards its \$100bn agriculture industry goal by 2030.
- Maintaining traceability and establishing appropriate biosecurity measures to safeguard organic integrity.

Priorities/Parties Response	ALP	Greens	Coalition
1. Pass domestic regulation of the Australian organic industry	No firm commitment to introduce domestic regulation.	✓ Commitment to introduce domestic regulation.	✓ Commitment to introduce domestic regulation with funding.
2. Accelerate market access for organic exports	Have committed to maintaining ongoing work with India, China and the EU.	✓ \$20million commitment that will include market access exploration.	Will review resourcing if in government. .
3. Invest in data collection to measure the organic industry's positive environmental and health impacts and its potential to accelerate Australia's progress towards its \$100bn agriculture by 2030	No commitment to enhance data collection.	✓ \$20million commitment that will include research for organics, plus \$1million over five years to collect revenue data.	No commitment to enhance data collection.
4. Maintaining traceability and establishing appropriate biosecurity measures to safeguard organic integrity	<b>TBC</b> No commitment to enhance organic biosecurity or traceability.	<b>TBC</b> No commitment to enhance organic biosecurity or traceability.	<b>TBC</b> Will review organic biosecurity in government.

**ORGANIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
**AUSTRALIAN GREENS SURVEY RESPONSE - DUE 28 MARCH 2025**

The Australian Greens thank the Organic Development Group (ODG) for their constructive engagement over the 47th Parliament. The Office of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson and the Australian Greens look forward to continuing this important work, and progressing the below shared priorities, in the 48th Parliament.

The Australian Greens note the close working relationship with Australian Organic Ltd and other members of the ODG in the development of many of the below policies and hope this serves as a strong indication of our ongoing commitment to seeing the Australian organic sector grow.

**The Greens' organic plan:**

The Australian Greens have a long history of supporting the growth and development of the Australian organics industry.

Countries like the United States and the European Union support their organic industries with funding and strong organic credentials, while Australia risks falling behind by still debating the definition of "organic."

The Greens are working to protect certified organic producers from greenwashing and help open new domestic and international markets. The Greens will also empower the organic industry better to measure its contribution to Australia's agricultural revenue.

**The Greens will:**

- Protect the organic industry from greenwashing by legislating a domestic standard that enshrines a legal definition of "organic" in Australia. This includes a commitment to implement domestic regulations of the Australian organic industry.
- Support market access, industry growth, and research for organics with a sustained funding model backed by a \$20 million commitment.
- Provide clarity on the organic sector's economic contribution with \$1 million over five years to collect revenue data as part of the broader agriculture industry.

**The Greens' environmental biosecurity plan:**

Invasive species threaten Australia's environment and agriculture, yet environmental biosecurity remains underfunded and de-prioritised. Long-term sustainable funding for Australia's biosecurity system is critical to manage the growing biosecurity risks posed by increasing tourism and trade.

The Greens are committed to addressing these challenges by supporting affected industries financially, boosting biosecurity capacity, and strengthening surveillance and research efforts.

**The Greens will:**

- Provide \$75 million in federal compensation funding to support beekeepers impacted by the spread of Varroa Mite.
- Establish Environment Health Australia as an independent body to coordinate biosecurity response, preparedness, and engagement.
- Increase investment in environmental biosecurity surveillance with \$8 million over four years to detect and prevent invasive species.
- Strengthen the Environmental Biosecurity Office with \$28 million over four years to boost its capacity and capability.
- Invest \$80 million in research, development, and extension to protect Australia from invasive species and pests.

**The Greens sustainable and regenerative agriculture plan:**

Australia's agriculture sector faces challenges in transitioning to sustainable practices, with farmers needing support to adopt innovative solutions for productivity and environmental resilience.

The Greens will establish Green Agriculture Australia, a \$250 million R&D centre to drive sustainable farming.

It will fund research, develop new technologies, and support farmers with training and solutions like regenerative agriculture, methane-reducing livestock feed, and precision farming.

**The Greens' will:**

- Support Australian farmers in transitioning to regenerative and sustainable practices by establishing Green Agriculture Australia with \$250 million in funding.

*All Australian Greens election commitments and policies can be found accessible on the [Australian Greens website](#).*

**From:** [ALP Correspondence](#)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Follow Up: Organic Development Group Election 2025 Priorities  
**Date:** Wednesday, 2 April 2025 3:00:16 PM

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Dear [name redacted]

Thank you for sending through priorities for the Organic Development Group (ODG) and advocating on behalf of your members. We note that Minister Collins has recently met with the ODG to discuss the best path forward for the organics industry.

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government is open to working with industry on a domestic regulation, and we will take into consideration the recommendations of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee's recent inquiry into the *National Organic Standards Bill 2024*. We are committed to working with industry and stakeholders to achieve appropriate regulations that do not unfairly burden small farmers, pass excessive costs onto consumers or fall foul of our international obligations.

An Albanese Labor Government is also committed to expanding Australia's trade in organic products. The Government recently signed a Statement of Intent on Organics with China and is negotiating an upgraded Organics Equivalency arrangement with the EU, as well as a Mutual Recognition Agreement with India. A future Albanese Labor Government would examine opportunities to expand market access where appropriate and look to build on our previous success.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and will help your members in their considerations.

Kind regards

ALP Campaign 2025

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## **The Coalition's Response to the Organic Development Group**

### **2025 Federal Election Questionnaire**

#### **Pass domestic regulation of the Australian organic industry within 12 months of election.**

The Coalition recognises the contribution of the organics industry to the agricultural sector and that the current regulatory framework is not 'fit for purpose'. The Coalition remains committed to a domestic organic regulatory framework in Australia.

On 19 November 2024 the Coalition introduced the *National Organic Standard Bill 2024* to create a framework for regulating the sale or importation of organic goods in Australia, with appropriate penalties for non-compliance.

The Coalition remains committed to a domestic regulatory framework in Australia. The coalition is committing \$1.6 million (and \$0.4 million ongoing) for the implementation of a national organic standard.

As per the Coalition Senators' dissenting report in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee Inquiry (2025) it is recommended that Labor commit to working closely with the organics industry to develop a domestic regulation framework that will include a legislated definition of 'organic' and a mandatory standard for organic products produced and sold domestically in Australia.

The recent Standing Committee on Agriculture's Inquiry into Australian agriculture in Southeast Asian Markets report 'Trading North' in November 2024 also supports the recommendation to define and regulate organic products within Australia's domestic market.

#### **Accelerate market access for organic exports.**

##### **The ODG calls upon the next government to:**

- **Improve resource allocation within the DAFF organic program to accelerate equivalency negotiations with key trading partners to reduce certification burdens and improve market access.**
- **Implement all recommendations from the 'Trading North' Report.**

The Coalition recognises that trade diversification and expansion is important for the organics industry to continue to grow. One of the key drivers for domestic regulations is to enable equivalency negotiations to commence.

The level of resource allocation can be investigated in government, and once Labor agrees to a National Domestic Organic Standard.

The Albanese Government has not responded to the Trading North report. The Coalition will consider the inquiry recommendations if in government.

**Invest in data collection to measure the organic industry's positive environmental and health impacts and its potential to accelerate Australia's progress towards its \$100bn agriculture industry goal by 2030.**

**The ODG calls for targeted commitments in the following areas:**

- 1. Ongoing production of an annual Australian Organic Market Report to provide up-to-date insights on industry trends, economic value, and sustainability impacts.**
- 2. Development and implementation of an API-based data transfer system for certification bodies, ensuring streamlined and consistent organic industry data collection.**
- 3. Industry benchmarking and regulatory reporting tailored to the organic sector, improving trade competitiveness and understand and track sustainability and health impacts of organic farming systems.**

Industry is best placed to collect data and report on the positive health and environmental impacts of organics.

The Coalition has supported the Australian Agriculture Sustainability Framework (AASF) being delivered by the NFF. The AASF was developed in response to increasing pressures on the agricultural sector to demonstrate sustainability performance, both domestically and internationally.

**Maintaining traceability and establishing appropriate biosecurity safeguard organic integrity.**

**To protect the integrity of Australia's organic sector, the ODG calls on all parties and politicians to commit to the following if the proposed changes from FSANZ Proposal 1055 and the amendments to the Gene Technology Act 2000 are adopted, to ensure that any changes to GM regulation do not diminish traceability for the organic industry:**

- Implement a national GM supply chain testing program – Establish proactive testing measures to detect potential GM contamination and verify compliance with organic standards.**
- Fund dedicated staff to monitor and communicate GM developments – Strengthen regulatory oversight by ensuring both industry and policymakers have access to up-to-date information on emerging genetic technologies and contamination risks.**
- Support organic seed production programs - Invest in domestic seed production to reduce reliance on imports, ensuring the availability of non-GM seed stock for Australian organic farms.**

- **Develop a centralised digital certification system – Improve traceability, efficiency, and security of organic certification through digital solutions, reducing administrative burdens while enhancing compliance oversight.**
- **Inclusion of organic in Biosecurity strategies – Future biosecurity strategies under the next federal government must include the organic industry to ensure integrity of the organic industry from potential biosecurity threats.**

**The ODG urges the government to implement these commitments before the 2028 election. The ODG seeks a commitment of \$19.5M over four years to support traceability for the organic industry.**

The Coalition will consider this if elected.