

Primary Produce Safety (Horticulture Produce) Regulations – Impact

Mr GEORGE question to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER

My question is from Sadie Chrestman of Fat Pig Farm, Glaziers Bay. While pleased to see the government has walked back its plans to regulate crop swaps, honesty boxes and backyard growers, Sadie is concerned about the impact of the draft Primary Produce Safety (Horticulture Produce) Regulations on small commercial growers cultivating less than two hectares. Will the Government amend the draft regulations to exempt small commercial growers from accreditation, auditing and registration requirements and instead provide clear, freely available guidance on water quality, composting and produce storage? The Government's own food resilience strategy encourages small-scale food producers, community gardens and local food resilience initiatives. How, then, does the Minister justify imposing unnecessary burdens on small growers, agritourism operators, school kitchen gardens and community food programs?