



Deal with China or we perish

WHY has it come to this?

Farmers forced to embark on a campaign to tell the rest of the country of the benefits of a trade deal with China?

What a disgrace.

Has Australia become so inward looking that it must be convinced that a deal with the world's most populous country for our produce is a good thing?

Our farmers should be congratulated for getting on the front foot with their #FTA4farmers campaign and for fighting for what they believe in.

But our politicians should hang their heads in shame that this deal was not done a long time ago.

You only have to look at the dairy industry and how it has fallen well behind New Zealand to see how we have dropped the ball.

New Zealand's trade deal with China has seen its dairy industry explode, with exports skyrocketing in the past

decade.

Meanwhile, our dairy production has fallen, leaving us a bit player on the global market.

It is ironic that although the #FTA4farmers campaign has been planned for some time it has come at a critical time in the Chinese trade negotiations.

Australian farmers should be horrified by the disgraceful rant of self-centred Palmer United Party leader Clive Palmer against China, aided by his uninspiring Tasmanian colleague Jacqui Lambie.

The words of these two plodders could cause untold damage to the future incomes of Australian farmers.

There are already rumblings from Canberra that Australian negotiators may have to give China more ground on agriculture than farmers want.

The ordinary effort with the Japan FTA still burns within the dairy industry.

Australia must secure a deal with China that benefits Australian agriculture.

In doing so it will benefit all Australians.

We shouldn't need a hashtag to convince anyone of that.