

Call for crackdown on unfair contracts

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NSW Farmers has called on the Federal Government to deliver on a key election promise to protect small businesses from larger partners who force them to accept unfair terms.

An Australian Competition and Consumer Commission probe identified potential unfair contract terms and a power imbalance between farmers and big food businesses, validating concerns about agriculture supply chains.

Family farming operations were often 'price-takers' in the supply chain, NSW Farmers president Xavier Martin said, faced with a 'take it or leave it' approach from large processors or retailers when trying to get the food they grow to consumers.

Prior to this year's federal election, Labor promised to make unfair contract terms illegal so small businesses could negotiate fairer agreements with large partners, giving businesses with fewer than 100 staff or a turnover of less than \$10 million a real shield against dodgy contracts.

This has now been introduced in Federal Parliament.