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Nation's Food plan a business plan for Big Food

Yesterday Agriculture Minister Tony Burke announced Australia's First Ever National Food Plan.

MADGE's Madeleine Love said "This isn't a food plan. This is a piece of paper that formalises the current business plan for Monsanto, Big Ag and Big Food." <http://bit.ly/9TJ6vq>

MADGE spokesperson Fran Murrell said "Food shouldn't be about food industry profits but the health of our communities."

"Australia's health problems of obesity, diabetes and food allergies will soon be an unbearable burden to our public health system. These diseases are directly related to diet. "

"A national food plan must put public health at the forefront, especially the needs of children and the frail, elderly and those with chronic disease. "

"MADGE is trying to protect Australian food and farmers from the monopolistic and monocultural interests of Big Ag and Big Food, and Tony Burke's National Food Plan has simply described their super-highway."

Monsanto is the agricultural company that has rapidly expanded its ownership of world seed (~23%), and owns ~90% of GM seed. Monsanto has powerful influence on US food and agriculture policy, and on World Trade.

"Streamlining business regulations" & "productivity & efficiency of value chain to improve global competitiveness" sounds like the continuation of policies that have supported the concentration of big business and very fast Multi-National Corporation food over the last decade.

"These are the policies that are leading our children (and nation) down a very steep hill to early and serious ill-health."

"Tony Burke expressed his intention to consult with organisations like the National Farming Federation and the Australian Food and Grocery Council, CSIRO, and Woolworths."

"Woolworth's refuses to ensure its Homebrand products are GM free and its market domination is damaging to farmers. The NFF and AFGC promote big agribusiness, including the interests of multinational Monsanto. CSIRO has funding arrangements with the

biotechnology industry and cannot be assumed to be representing the interests of Australian industry, nor the public.”

“The commitment was said be funded from the Regional Food Producers Innovation and Productivity Program (RFPIPP) <http://bit.ly/d8hrQl>. There is no new money and it is not the National Plan for food health that MADGE and many other groups have been calling for.”

MADGE has no expectation that the Liberal party will come up with a better food policy.

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