



23 May 2020

Mr. Ross Tieman  
Research Fellow  
Alliance to Feed the Earth in Disasters (ALLFED)  
College of Engineering and Mines,  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
1731 South Chandalar Drive,  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
USA

Dear Mr. Tieman:

I am writing in support of ALLFED's entry into the competition for the *Rockefeller Food System Vision Prize*. In my previous capacity as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, I've come across many programmes and initiatives relating to food security. The ALLFED entry ("South Australia becomes a world leader in hyper resilient food systems by implementing novel food production technologies and strategies") stands out in terms of its boldness and ambition. Also, the timing for the initiative could not be better. The recent severe bushfires on Australia's east coast—the largest area affected by bushfire in Australia's history—have demonstrated the need for urgent action to address climate change, including mitigating its impacts.

The Australian Department of Agriculture estimates that changes in the climate since 2000 have already reduced average annual broad acre farm profits by over 20% (\$18,600 per farm) and by 35% for cropping sector farms (\$70,900 per farm). This equates to an average loss in revenue for the broad acre cropping industry of around \$1.1 billion a year, during a period when the overall level of warming has been only about 1°C. We are on track for at least 3°C of warming.

Climate change is clearly a fundamental threat, not only to Australia's agricultural exports, but ultimately to domestic food security as well. The ALLFED initiative will help develop strategies to build the resilience of our

food systems and generate lessons that we can share in our region and globally in the context of our rapidly changing climate.

I congratulate you on your initiative and your success in reaching the semi-finals of the competition. Please feel free to share this letter of support with the *Prize's* organisers along with my offer to elaborate on the above comments, should the organisers find it useful.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Glasser', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Robert Glasser

**Visiting Fellow**

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