

List of Questions asked through SLI.DO at the 2018 Rural Connectivity Symposium, 26th June.

Asked during the presentation of Nathan Penny

Question	Score	Answer
How come farming is seen as not getting on with business under Labour Govt, yet their income is the highest since 2011?	1	Nathan Penny: The starting point for any Labour Govt is a suspicious rural sector, given that the regions/rural areas heavily favour National in their voting preferences. From that starting point, farmers have also been confronted with drought, Mycoplasma bovis as well global trade tensions. These factors have compounded the negativity in farmer sentiment and meant that spending and investment activity in the farming has been weak so far this year.
Could it be,that the real opportunity & disruption might be in supporting product and science development? ie methanol from whey, new foodtech from hort science?	0	Nathan Penny: I agree that there is opportunity in product and science development. However, we must be realistic in that the amount of R&D that goes on in NZ will always be small. Impossible Foods, for example, have raised over US\$400m and that's just one firm. It highlights the need for NZ firms to find global partners so as to leverage their capital and expertise.