



Which of the following best describes your situation?

Farmer/producer

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or industry body?

No

How would you like to respond?

a. Answer discussion paper questions via the online survey

What are the opportunities to reduce emissions and build carbon stores in agriculture and the land? What are the main barriers to action?

Opportunities = better genetics, better animal husbandry practices, greater knowledge of beneficial planting practices and land and water management. Barriers = lack of grass root support of implementing better practice, confusion surrounding baselines, mapping footprint etc, conflicting information, finding information relative to Australian environments and the expense of mapping footprint and implementing beneficial practices

How can we progress emission reduction efforts whilst also building resilience and adapting to climate change?

It feels very much like agriculture, mining and certain big business is being expected to be the major players in reduction. While they must participate - I feel more emphasis needs to be placed on retail and consumers. This is a global issue, not just a mining, big business and Ag issue. When planning for urban expansion - every new development should be able to contribute to creating it's own energy (even aim to be off grid). While food miles is constantly discussed - we also need to be aware of the energy that is put into all the retail products consumed, including the energy taken up by removing the waste created by these products. We need to get serious about recycling and promoting products that are capable of long term use - a phone should be capable of lasting for

decades not outdated in a year. Aluminium should be a closed system - in order to build something from aluminium it must be made from recycled aluminium - we should also be working for this with plastics and other materials we use. We have to stop being a throw away society if we are truly striving for resilience. We also need to stop relying on overseas manufacturing. We also need to ensure that arable land is protected for food production. Urban development that encroaches on land where food can be grown reduces global food security. Urban development that sees destruction of natural habitat needs to stop and indeed should be held accountable for this destruction. Primary producers have strict limits and massive penalties for land clearing and yet every drive through coastal nsw towns and cities sees massive development into tree'd hinterlands and land that previously grew food.

Are there initiatives or innovative programs underway that could be applied or expanded on at a national scale?

I am really not sure. I do see great things happening in waste reduction and recycling in the ag space (mostly through ABC's Landline) There is also much discussion on better genetics in both animals and plants and better soil care and use BUT there is no fixed space to get support, information and access to resources to look at implementing practices that will reduce emissions. There needs to be some kind of quality control as to programs and technology that really works and a way of communicating this to farmers. We keep being told that our processors, banks, suppliers and governing bodies have signed us up to emission reduction targets BUT there are no coordinated pathways for producers to follow and no financial support to implement changes. Primary producers are constantly responsible for greater expenses to create the food and fiber that humans depend upon for survival and yet the payment we receive is set by processors. Our ability to grow our businesses is becoming nearly impossible and inter generational practices are being lost. We need innovative programs to encourage and support young Australians to enter the ag space and be rewarded with ownership of their future. Rewarding sustainable Australian family primary producers would be brilliant.

How can the Australian Government bring together existing effort and new initiatives into one coordinated plan?

Better communication with people at the forefront. As a primary producer I only found out about the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan through word of mouth at a workshop I attended. Only one producer at the event had heard about the plan and knew that we could submit a response. EVERY primary producer should be made aware of this plan and be encouraged to respond. This is actually very common. I stumbled on the survey for the beef sustainability project 2 days before the survey closed. In the 6 months since the closure of that survey, I have not spoken to a single beef producer who even knew the framework could be commented on let alone actually make a comment. I fear that the same will be true of this planning document. Given the average age of farmers in Australia excludes quite a few people from social media and that regional access to radio and television communication is being reduced to satellite connection, the government needs to identify how best to communicate with individual primary producers. It is not enough for governments to just communicate with the governing bodies of various primary production entities as the more I discuss with individuals what targets are, the more frustration I find with the abject lack of knowledge that is being shared with the people who will be expected to implement and pay for all the changes.

What are the most important options to be further adopted or supported, looking in the short and the longer-term?

Support in methods of reducing cattle methane emissions that don't impact the health and welfare of the animal or affect the quality of the meat. Support of the beef industry by acknowledging that although there is an impact from methane there are also many positives to producing red meat - especially the ability of bovines to create an essential human food source from materials that humans can't consume.

What are the practical solutions to increase uptake?

Better education of producers and consumers. Governments communicating and sharing information across the board not just pandering to the voting majority. This has to be about sustainable agriculture and land use that feeds the globe whilst causing the least possible damage to the environment NOT seeking a vote.

How do you see the agriculture and land sectors contributing over the medium and longer-term? What are the opportunities to deliver emission reductions in parallel with wider goals?

Before we can deliver serious emission reductions we need to have a greater voice in the targets being set for us and how we can go about reaching them. The targets that our country needs to meet CANNOT come at the cost of reducing global food security. Those at the base of primary production need to be supported with education and resources to implement the changes that need to take place and these changes need to be validated as best practice and actual solutions that benefit not only the environment but also our businesses.

How can the Australian Government better support agriculture and land sectors to:

a) drive innovation

b) build capacity

c) ensure the system enables emissions reductions

a) provide assessment of research and development projects to support producers in knowing what innovations will work for them. Provide support to and advertising of producers who are leading the way with successful and affordable innovations. b) ensure that producers who implement successful changes are financially compensated for the costs c) assess and report on systems to ensure they work and make these easily available to producers

What new initiatives could the Australian Government design that would support emissions reduction and carbon storage in agriculture and land and help ensure a productive, profitable, resilient and sustainable future for the sectors?

Broaden the perspective. Government needs to encourage and support mixed farming practices that feed and clothe the globe. While looking at increasing biodiversity on farm, farmers should be encouraged and compensated for planting trees that serve (at least) dual purposes - biodiversity and for eg - be harvest-able for timber, or provide a fruit or nut. Planting out native trees that don't contribute to food, fiber or timber can be encouraged on public lands and National Parks - on arable land we need to be creating as much food, fiber and timber as possible to support a growing global population and this needs to be encouraged and the right tree for the right zone needs to be researched and developed.

A consistent and trusted approach for assessing and reporting emissions is often raised as a barrier to reducing emissions. Is there a role for the Australian Government in addressing this concern, and how can producers and land managers be supported?

Producers, that I know, are very wary of the assessment and reporting processes for emissions. There is so much blame and accusations being laid at the feet of farmers that it feels like a constant attack. There is not a farmer (that I know) that doesn't want to pass on a better landscape for farming to their children than what they started with.

Our knowledge of and protection of our land is paramount to the success of our business. I do know of producers that have spent thousands of dollars mapping their emissions and looking at their carbon sequestration for absolutely no return. How many businesses can afford to invest in processes that provide no return? It really seems that there are so many tech and science based groups clamouring to report on what we are doing at great cost - but very little tangible evidence of practices that provide meaningful difference - especially for beef farmers. The Australian Government could assess the various assessors by speaking with producers who have used them and find out what producers gained from the process and how much this gain cost them - and then provide a platform where other producers have access to these discussions, even the opportunity to work with successful producers to have a mentor as they head down the path of implementing change.

What skills, knowledge and capabilities do you think producers and land managers need to implement change? What information and data would help them make decisions about emissions reductions and sustainable land management in the short and longer-term?

It feels like we are at the very forefront of this process. While there seems to be a plethora of research to indicate the harm agriculture causes to the environment - there is very little promotion of the fact that agriculture is essential for human survival. We are already making use of information on genetics to improve our herd, of plants that are better for our soil and that may reduce methane along with being a beneficial feed for our stock. I will wholeheartedly adopt any researched and proven practice that is beneficial for my land, my animals and my business. I am even prepared to be a part of any research that needs to take place. I am just tired of all of the negative assaults on primary productions and demands that we make changes when those changes aren't stated or properly developed. In order to implement changes, we need to be informed of the expectations and HOW we can deliver them. Research into best practice needs to be ongoing and well resourced and communicated to all primary producers freely.

Do you have any additional views or feedback that you would like to include in your response?

I would really like to see a report into how consumers in urban areas are being encouraged/forced to reduce their carbon emissions. Renewable energy installations in urban areas so that they are self sustaining. Reduced car numbers and use where public transport is readily available. We desperately need bigger support for recycling and waste eradication. Achieving net zero should be aligned with achieving waste management goals - such as - capturing energy from waste, re-cycling all plastics, clothing and metals an aim to zero land fill. Keep farming land for farming.

Is your response confidential?

No

Do you agree to your response being published on our website?

Yes

Please de-identify my response

Yes

I have read and understood the privacy notice and consent to the collection, use and disclosure of my personal information as outlined in the privacy notice.

Yes

Confirm that you have read and understand this declaration.

Yes
