
Which of the following best describes your situation?

Landowner

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?

Don't open new fossil fuel mines/plants/basins, and stop subsidising existing ones. Re-establish an effective carbon price that works for the land sector. Design and then ensure compliance with better controls on land clearing. Miners and frackers should not have more water rights than farmers, and they should pay full price for the water they use and/or pollute, including costs of making good. Rigorous work to ensure integrity of land sector offsets - additionality and permanence must be guaranteed, independently audited - no more \$\$ for people not to clear land that was never viable to clear! A rural carbon market with integrity, backed up by an economy-wide carbon price, is the best way to incentivise genuine emissions reductions (the only metric that counts) and build carbon stores. The main barriers to action are inertia and lack of political will vs the powerful vested interests in the status quo - especially the fossil fuel sector.

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

Stop making the problem worse! Stop expanding and subsidising fossil fuels! Reward best practice, preferably with efficient market-based measures, e.g. carbon price. We had one, it worked, many countries have done likewise, we can do it again. More/better R&D on metrics and measurement/verification systems to bring down costs and increase transparency would have high returns.

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

Landcare Farm forestry as advocated by Rowan Reid Investment in citizen science around carbon at multiple scales to increase community literacy

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

An effective carbon price (underpinned by a regulatory safety net) will generate bottom-up innovation. The notion of one coordinated plan is misguided.

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

Ruminant methane obviously needs more technical options, both in feedlot and rangeland situations. The longstanding challenge in Australian agriculture, here as in other issues, is the big gap between the best operators and the average, and the even bigger gap to the tail. We still need better extension systems to share best practice faster, and better disincentives to manage the bottom 20% who do 80% of the damage. An economy-wide carbon price makes all of that much easier.

What are the practical solutions to increase uptake?

Innovation in extension using all modern digital tools, around a framework of RDCs, farming systems research groups, regional NRM bodies and Landcare.

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?

Australian farming and Australian rural regions should be enormously carbon-positive, generating vast amounts of renewable energy (much of it exported) and storing vast amounts of carbon. Getting policy and market settings right will deliver enormous economic opportunities, durable jobs, drought-proof returns to farmers and rural businesses, and much greater social resilience in rural communities.

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

a) build innovation

b) build capacity

c) ensure the system enables emissions reductions

Carbon price Better metrics and cheaper, more precise measurement systems Transparent registers

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?

Carbon price

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?

Absolutely Not properly measuring emissions (e.g. fugitive methane from fracking), tolerating dodgy credits and a discredited rural carbon market is a disaster for Australian farmers, Australian agriculture and rural communities,

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?

Current policy settings/inertia/lack of ambition are a much bigger constraint than farmers' skills.

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
