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**Which of the following best describes your situation?**

Farmer/producer

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

No

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**How would you like to respond?**

a. Answer discussion paper questions via the online survey

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

Opportunities include a movement toward regenerative farming practices that cuts reliance from synthetic inputs and instead leverages on existing natural systems. Carbon sequestration with the soil and the introduction of trees (forestry for harvest) in multi-story farming with grazing systems. Main barriers is lack of scientific research and even rarer case studies including commercial examples. Many farmers are highly influenced by their supply chain and agronomists (who are often part of fertiliser companies) who promote unsustainable/conventional farming methods.

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

despite the variety of farmers, the one thing they all want is reduced costs. Regenerative agriculture can achieve this for all farmers. For example, by reactivating soil biology, soils become more independent from synthetic fertilisers. Improved soil health means increased humus, means increased water storage. Focus on perennials rather than annuals.

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

Yes, the "Grazing for Profit" by RCS (or the contents thereof) should be nationalised. RCS is not the only organisation however. Locally I attended a 7 week regenerative agriculture course hosted by [REDACTED], however it can only be attended by farmers within that catchment zone. needs to be made available nationally.

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

make a list of all activities, determine how they overlap with our Paris agreement commitments. Determine where there is overlap or gaps with existing efforts and redistribute them for all farmers to access. Make the state gov, commit to the federal plan. Proactively contact farmers, get the info from the ATO, MLA or whatever. Contact all farmers with the plan both digital and face-to-face. Enable Ag extension officers to visit farms to get farmers engaged. Hold "town hall" meetings for each farming community. Create a national portal for farmers to access information in one location. Current info is extremely decentralised.

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

don't understand the pg.15 reference. anything that increases efficiency of synthetic fertilisers and therefore application rates. focus on regenerative agriculture techniques.

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**What are the practical solutions to increase uptake?**

always focus on the financial aspect first and the "feel good" factor later. RCS Grazing for Profit course does a good job on this. Put a member of the team on that course and you will see.

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**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?**

they will contribute using regenerative agriculture techniques combined with agroforestry in multi-story farming. this is sufficient to offset the worst of farm emissions provided that Urea inputs are limited.

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**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**

before anyone takes action there needs to be clearer frameworks for GHG, the difference between emission and GWP methodologies, how carbon markets work, do farms need to enter carbon markets at all, how to become

certified and by whom. It has taken me months to work this out by talking to about 6 experts from various fields. It's too confusing. Also, the ERF scheme is too expensive and admin heavy for the average farmer.

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**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?**

Offer free/compulsory in regenerative farming that must be maintained in order for farmers to keep their primary production, MLA (or equivalent) certification. If not compulsory, then other carrot initiatives to incentivise them. Then create an online national portal where farmers upload their farming achievements to be given a score. Gamify the system.

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**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?**

My peak body, Cattle Australia is currently disputing the focus on Emissions and prefers the focus to be on Warming Potential instead. There are valid reasons for this argument but it does cause confusion for the segment of farmers that have the highest GHG emissions of all farming (beef). Watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVwff36-GFw> you need to address these concerns and mediate. It won't go away otherwise for the most impactful of ag segments. Make a website specifically for Australian farmers.

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**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?**

From an operational perspective, anything to do with regenerative agriculture. This encourages farmers to learn more about the natural systems they can foster and integrate with that will reduce their reliance on costly and harmful synthetic inputs. This means they will need new observational and monitoring techniques to assess soil health. A kit containing these tools would be about \$1000-2000. Farmers need to take control of their data and analysis (i.e. basic excel skills) as most farmers rely on agronomists from fertiliser companies to do this for them. The advice they receive is not objective. Therefore, farmers need to do their own soil, plant tissue, feed tests and conduct their own analysis and form their own conclusions. Also, many farmers are now making their own fertilisers (bioferts) and apply them as a foliar which is significantly more efficient compared to non-foliar. Ag extension officers around the country MUST be equipped to give support to farmers doing this work. You will face significant backlash from vested corporate interests. Do you have the courage to break their grip?

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

Thank you for running this program. Please get your team to research regenerative agriculture. Information is everywhere such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q1VnwcpW7E> However the term "regenerative agriculture" is not defined or controlled by a single body but rather a movement. Perhaps the closest body to controlling this is the Savory institute and their Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) model. Woolworths has recently trademarked "Regenerative Farming" so hard to know what the intention is there.

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**Is your response confidential?**

No

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

Yes

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**Please de-identify my response**

Yes

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**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

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**Confirm that you have read and understand this declaration.**

Yes

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