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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

SUBMISSION: Agriculture and Land Sector Plan

Established in 2008, the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA) is a not-for-profit, incorporated, whole of value chain member industry association. Its' purpose is to support an effective and efficient Western Australian grain industry. GIWA facilitates communication, information exchange, capacity building and grain supply chain solutions for Western Australia.

GIWA's members include researchers, plant breeders, seed producers and distributors, growers, grower groups, agronomists, farm business advisors, input service providers, domestic feed and food grain processors, bulk and container logistics service providers, and the trade.

GIWA collaborates with Grains Australia, Grain Producers Australia, Grain Growers Limited and the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre, and is a member of Grain Trade Australia, the Australian Oilseeds Federation, the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia, the Australian Fodder Industry Association and Buy West Eat Best.

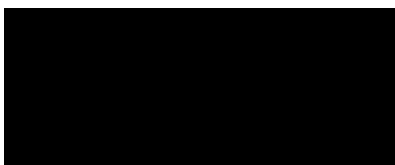
GIWA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the (draft) **Agriculture and Land Sector Plan** and makes the following overarching points:

- Australian agriculture, including grain production, is unlikely to ever be carbon neutral.
- Australian agriculture is crucial to domestic and global food security, particularly as populations continue to grow.
- Australian farmers are already very efficient, leaving little opportunity to pare back inputs as a primary mechanism to reduce emissions.
- Agricultural land is under increasing pressure to provide offsets for other high polluting, non-agriculture sector industries, or to be utilised for renewable energy projects, or to provide woody feedstock for planned biofuel production.
- Scope 3 emissions from fertiliser and herbicide manufacture are very significant for grain production.
- Emissions from nitrogenous fertilisers and fuel use (diesel) are significant on-farm sources of emissions for grain production.
- All parts of the agriculture supply chain must take responsibility for reducing emissions.
- Much work still needs to be done to accurately quantify and benchmark emissions from current agricultural practices and potential, less carbon intensive alternatives, and to then upskill growers in how they can transition to these new practices while remaining financially viable.

Consequently, GIWA believes effective government policies, incentives and programs are needed to:

- Balance the inherent tension between emissions reduction and food security.
- Unlock all options for reducing emissions, while ensuring food safety standards are met and market access is maintained.
- Ensure prime agricultural land is protected for the long-term production of food and fibre.
- Avoid if possible, or where not possible minimise the cost of undertaking baseline soil-carbon surveys and the administrative burden associated with calculating and reporting on emissions, potentially in multiple different formats for different markets/customers.
- Support the identification and development of opportunities for new markets or new or differentiated products that generate price premiums through growers' adoption of sustainable farm practices. This would help reduce the cost burden for growers of adopting low emissions practices.
- Simplification of the regulatory system for registering and monitoring carbon sequestration in the agriculture industry, which are currently lengthy, expensive and complicated.
- Provide taxation incentives, accelerated depreciation, rebates or other incentives to hasten adoption of improved practices when proven.
- Establish an appropriately funded and recognised body to develop and administer agreed and regularly reviewed metrics and reporting standards to which legislation can refer.
- Train and accredit independent advisers to assist growers with decision making and to undertake their reporting requirements.
- Enable research which:
 - Accurately quantifies emissions from current and new agricultural practices in order to benchmark current emissions, guide future actions and track change.
 - Quantifies and provides a better understanding of options to manage emissions from crop residues.
 - Quantifies emissions from existing and new fertilisers, their effect on productivity, and identifying ways to limit fertiliser losses (particularly of nitrogenous fertilisers).
 - Determines the relative benefits of biodiesel versus electrification for farm machinery and road transport and maps a cost-effective pathway to adoption.
 - Investigates the cost effectiveness of on-farm renewable energy production as a means to transition to electrification of farm machinery.

Yours sincerely,



Tresslyn Walmsley
Chair
Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA)