

**Name:**

Erika Van Schellebeck

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

Not for profit organisation

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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?**

Soil carbon is Australia's major opportunity to build carbon stores in agriculture and the land. The main barriers to action in achieving this is lack of literacy in soil carbon, carbon farming and climate change. Education is the most fundamental need for Australian agriculture to successfully transition towards carbon neutral. How can we expect farmers to change their business practices towards carbon neutrality when there is still such a low level of climate change literacy in regional and rural Australia? Without access to independent information on climate change science (the "why" we need to move towards carbon neutrality), many farmers logically align their opinions with those who deny the reality of climate change and question the science, politics and ultimate need for carbon neutrality. Denying the reality of climate change is an understandable human response to this existential threat, but given farmers are exposed to the reality of climate change on a daily basis, of anyone in Australia, our farmers deserve better climate change education so they can make informed decisions. When given access to independent and well-communicated information on climate change, farm emissions and carbon neutrality, farmers can make up their own mind on this defining land management issue. They can then change their practices to have better climate resilience and access to carbon markets and carbon neutral supply chains (if that suits their business model at this point).

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

Building soil carbon to offset agricultural emissions brings many co-benefits that allow farmers to build their resilience and adapt to climate change. Soil carbon increases nutrient availability, energy for soil organisms, soil

structure and water holding capacity. By improving soil health in this way, soil carbon increases farmer's drought resilience.

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

SoilCQuest is an Australian not for profit Soil Carbon Research Institute. We have developed online short courses on soil carbon and carbon farming for Australian agricultural producers and their advisors that could be expanded on at a national scale with federal government funding. <https://www.soilcquest.org.au/courses/>

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

An Australian biotech startup founded by farmers and climate specialists in Orange, NSW- Loam Bio, has developed commercial microbial inoculum seed coatings that increase soil carbon in cropping systems. Farmers are currently using these seed treatments for barley and canola to increase stable soil carbon. If this technology was adopted at a national level it would lead to gigaton carbon drawdown in Australian agriculture. [www.loambio.com](http://www.loambio.com)

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

Subsidise the costs involved for farmers to uptake technological solutions, such as carbon-building seed treatments.

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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?**

Farmers have an opportunity to be climate heroes by building their soil carbon for gigatonne carbon drawdown, whilst achieving productivity and resilience outcomes to ensure Australian agriculture can continue to feed and clothe Australia and the world. Soil carbon is the opportunity for Australian agriculture to offset their emissions to be carbon neutral.

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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?**

Producers and land managers need greater carbon literacy to implement change. To help them make decisions, both producers and their trusted advisors (land management and financial) need independent information. They also need access to easy-to-use emissions calculators to understand their own emissions profile.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the plan. Two items that are missing from table 4 in section 3.4 of the Plan (Carbon storage technologies and practices) are: - the 13 eligible activities listed in the ACCU Scheme Carbon Farming Soil Carbon Method - as these are established and scalable carbon storage practices. e.g. grazing management (wholistic grazing/ Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing). - seed treatments that use carbon-fixing fungi to

increase soil carbon in cropping. E.g. Loam Bio's canola and barley seed treatments- these is an emerging technology that could be adopted at scale for Gigatonne carbon drawdown.

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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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**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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