

Name:

Mark Scott

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?

Lack of a long term sustainable return for our produce means it is nearly impossible to carry out good business- eg budget for drought and other risks, replace infrastructure and equipment, meet non production compliance requirements for both food and human safety and to reduce emissions and build carbon at the same time. The current agricultural market in Australia leads to a lowest cost production system and so makes these goals unsustainable in the long term. If a fair price was paid for production so that landholders were able to achieve an ROI of greater than 5% consistently then there would be more scope to carry out emissions reductions and to build carbon while being financially sustainable. When sustainable growers can afford to lower stocking rates and use more expensive but better quality fertilisers that will allow the above. Like wise grow cover crops or intentionally leave areas ungraded or fallow to build carbon Recognise that carbon is cyclical and just because there is an emission on a property does not mean that net emissions for the property are positive.

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

Increase the price returned to growers. Breakup the supermarket duopoly and legislate a minimum percentage of the retail price that must be returned to the farm gate. Reduce compliance costs, red and green tape. Allow farmers to make the decisions that are best for their individual property to achieve resilience as every property is different. Continue farm management deposit scheme to allow money to be put aside in good times for bad seasons. Allow for 100% deductible purchases of equipment and assets that are associated with resilience and adapting to climate change eg - hay sheds, dams, no till seeders, tractors with more efficient engines, silage pits. Provide best quality public infrastructure like railways roads and ports to help growers make money.

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

Grazing matcher, uptake soils programme in wa

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

Don't interfere and let growers make money and adapt as the climate changes around them. Exact measurements of the real carbon emissions in each individual location and production system so that growers only have to carry out the changes needed and not practice that may not need to occur- if we find out the systems don't emit carbon then we don't need to change them

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

This will vary depending on each area's climate, production system, soil type and distance from market. Any system needs to allow individual producers to carry out what is going to work best on their property. Just because two producers are next to each other, doesn't mean the solutions might be polar opposite.

What are the practical solutions to increase uptake?

A carrot is better than a stick- monetary incentive.

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?

Will only contribute if they can make money out of it - 5% roi and better. Drive change and profit at the same time and change will occur.

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)Continue RDC levy \$4\$ support Tax incentives for adoption, equipment and assets B) allow farmers to increase net farm income which would attract more young people and particularly younger university educated people to land management and agriculture and build longer term capital. C)make emissions reductions profitable

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?

AI

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?

A no cost to landowners scheme could be used as long as it was designed and driven by landowners- not green groups, traditional owners (unless for their own properties) or overseas standards the government has agreed. Where landowners have been conservative and have already protected areas of vegetation (or simply not cleared it to start with) or have already carried out activities like controlled grazing, no or limited till cultivation- then these landowners should be allowed to recognise these activities in any assessments and not just be assessed on new works

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?

Non - just let them get on and make a profit and run their land the most sustainable way they can.

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

Private property should not be considered by government as being “the governments” tool to reduce emissions the government has agreed to - with out the individual land owners consent. If they now want landowners cooperation the wider community need to financially pay landowners to carry out works on the public’s behalf. The question also needs to be asked is would any change of emissions from Australian farms have any meaningful effect on climate change and if not - is the threat to Australia’s and the worlds food security worth forcing changes on landowners in Australia.

Is your response confidential?

No

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

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
