

**Name:**

Patrick Francis

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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?**

Improving livestock pastures with increased percentage of legumes which have higher palatability and digestability so improving growth rates so decreasing time to slaughter so decreasing methane output per kg of carcase weight. Also legumes reduced need for nitrogen fertiliser and add N to soil increasing perennial grass growth which further enhances growth rates. Add genetic improvement for growth rate and fertility and methane emissions per kg of carcase weight are further reduced. Add reforestation and revegetation so every farm in the agricultural zone has a minimum of 20% tree/shrub cover and livestock and crop farms can be net carbon sinks. Our farm is a net carbon sink due to these processes. Barriers failure by all levels of government to recognise the processes above and credit farmers for implementing them. There is no credit or acknowledgement of our farm's net carbon sink position in Victoria

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

What I mentioned above does both we are climate resilient and well adapted to climate change. Another key ingredient is keeping a minimum 1200 kg dry matter per hectare across the paddocks all year long.

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

All of question 5 and 6. Stop trying to racialise this topic, its not about your race its about interest, knowledge and skills any one regardless of race can have.

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

It can't do much other than offer recognition associated with tax credits to provide an incentive. It could also support the farmers who are undertaking programs to reduce emissions and abatement of carbon and who have data to show it is happening. How is it possible that we are a net carbon sink of around 200 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year and no government at any level wants to know?

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

See question 5 answer

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

No recognition no incentive to be net zero

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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?**

Revegetation and reforestation have dramatically increased biodiversity, landscape amenity, soil health and water quality. No one want to know as yet but Federal government is heading towards this recognition very slowly and too academically. its actually simple to evaluate reveg and reforestation achievement and outcomes.

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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**

Farmers including landcare groups and scientists will drive the innovation needed but they need tangible support for demonstrated on farm outcomes on emission reductions and abatement. Currently all governments are all talk and give no targets for reductions on a 5 year basis even though the UN climate change expert panel says they are essential. For example what incentive is there for landcare groups to ask farmers to establish reforestation and revegetation corridors when no government recognise the outcomes. Landcare has been going since 1990 with millions of trees and shrubs planted and I have not seen one landcare group publish a stocktake of the abatement

achieved on an annual basis as a result. I can provide a realistic stock take of abatement on our farm since 2005 to present at approximately 200t CO2e per year.

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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?**

As above recognise emission reduction and abatement by equipping and financing landcare groups to undertake simple, local audits of participating farms.

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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?**

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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?**

I suspect the skills, knowledge etc are already in about 70% of farmers, but there are no incentives to get them to act other than Emissions Reduction Fund which is more about making money by corporations with the finances to be involved. We also need to pay attention to peri-urban land owners many of who have NO knowledge of landcare, reveg, reforestation and many are land bankers and investors sitting on farms for their capital gain. NO farm should be allowed to be neglected in terms of environmental management and achieving emissions reductions and abatement. All farms should be required to provide an emissions and abatement return on a three yearly basis along the line of a tax return.

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

Stop the talk and introduce emissions reduction targets and abatement targets and reward farmers who achieve targets on their own farms providing they show trend data to prove what they say is being achieved is actually happening. Use landcare groups equipped with professional staff to guide emissions reduction efforts and abatement efforts and to undertake stocktakes at the farm level.

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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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