

..... delivering better **Land, Agriculture & Soil Carbon**

Prolonged drought and higher temperatures are reducing the capacity of the agricultural sector to adapt and innovate so intervention and investment in reform of farming practice is needed if Australia is to continue to contribute to the world's growing demand for food.

Our natural resources are declining faster than we can protect and repair them. Salinity, soil acidity, nutrient pollution of waterways and loss of native vegetation are costing agricultural and the community billions of dollars.

Sustainable farming is urgently needed to reduce greenhouse emissions, increase productivity, reduce costs, improve nutritional values in food and deliver wider natural resource benefits.

Our Plan

Climate change

- Conduct a study to identify potential benefits and trade-offs in food production in emissions trading, including carbon sequestration in soil, farm forestry and crops and the implications for farmers of auditing agriculture for greenhouse emissions from 2015
- Conduct more research into methodologies to value soil carbon for trading purposes, and agricultural practices that use less fertiliser and restore soil carbon
- Fund a national sustainable farming program to:
 - evaluate and reward successful innovation in sustainable practice

- increase the proportion of farmers at the frontiers of technological adoption and moving those frontiers to higher levels
- develop and identify strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions from agriculture
- establish regional life-cycle analyses of emissions from major cropping and livestock industries to quantify emissions under Australian climatic conditions
- implement flexible farming and best-management practices responding to climate risk and tools to assist decision making.
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- integrate science knowledge into policy and implementation
- offer extension programs to support farmers in alternative energy production - solar, wind farming and biofuels

Natural habitat and biodiversity on farms

- Pay land owners to manage and protect areas of environmental significance on private land and double stewardship program funding to \$100m
- Deliver tax incentives to protect, promote, manage, rehabilitate, revegetate and enhance native habitat and natural resources
- Improve Landcare's effectiveness through good science-based strategies and better assistance for volunteers with training and coordination support and aim to increase the number and reach of Landcare groups from the current 75% to 100%.
- Bring broad-scale land-clearing under Federal environment laws
- Close loopholes and toughen quarantine standards on imports of invasive species and disease by requiring Import Risk Assessments by Biosecurity Australia to be rigorous, transparent, timely and conform to international standards set by World Trade Organisation and World Animal Health Organisation

See also Rural Water, GMOs and Invasive Species Plans