

CARBON NEWS Issue 6



Welcome to the Winter edition!

The rain has come and the crops are up and hopefully it is not too cold where you are. I hope the season is shaping up to be a good one. This edition of Carbon News should provide much food for thought.

Second Emissions Reduction Fund Auction announced

The [Clean Energy Regulator](#) has announced that the second Emissions Reduction Fund auction for carbon abatement contracts will be held on **4 and 5 November 2015**. Projects that wish to bid into this auction need to be registered by the **18th of Sept**.

The auction guidelines will be published on Friday 21 August 2015.

Read more [HERE](#)

47 million tonnes contracted in first auction

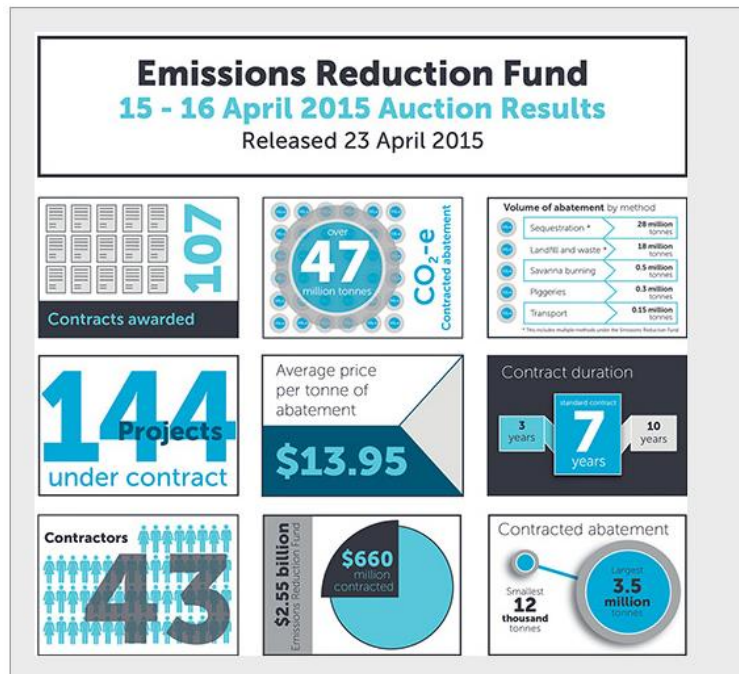
The Clean Energy Regulator has awarded 107 contracts that will deliver over 47 million tonnes of CO₂-e abatement. The majority of these contracts are for sequestration projects that started under the CFI and have now transitioned to the ERF.

Other successful projects include: landfill and waste management, savanna burning, piggyeries effluent management and transport.

There are 43 successful contractors who will be managing 144 projects. The majority of the contracts will run for 7 years.

The average price paid by the Clean Energy Regulator was \$13.95 per tonne of abatement, with the total abatement contracted from this auction costing \$660 million.

The info graphic below is sourced from the Clean Energy Regulator website.



Emissions Reduction Fund Update from the Department of the Environment



Transition of Carbon Farming Initiative Methods to the Emissions Reduction Fund

Following public consultation, 10 Carbon Farming Initiative methods transitioned to the Emissions Reduction Fund on 1 July 2015. These methods have been updated to ensure they are consistent with the Emissions Reduction Fund legislation, easy to use and streamlined.

The other 16 CFI methods have been superseded and were revoked on 1 July 2015.

There is no reduction in the scope of activities eligible under the Emissions Reduction Fund as a result of the transition process: an increasing range of methods are now available to capture emissions reduction opportunities across the economy.

Details of the transitioned and revoked methods are available on the [Department of the Environment website](#).



Model-based soil carbon method now available

A new method is available for use as part of the Emissions Reduction Fund:

- [Estimating sequestration of carbon in soil using default values method](#) (model-based soil carbon)

A model-based soil carbon project stores carbon in soils on agricultural land by introducing specific management actions that increase inputs of carbon to the soil, reduce loss of carbon from the soil, or both.

The method requires at least one of the following specific land management actions to be undertaken:

- sustainable intensification, requiring management actions such as nutrient management, new irrigation, managing soil acidity or pasture renovation
- stubble retention, where crop residue that was previously removed through burning or baling is retained in field, and
- conversion to pasture, where land under continuous cropping is permanently converted to pasture.

With nutrient management, soil acidity and stubble retention being included in this method, WANTFA will be looking closely to see how broadacre growers can participate.

The model-based soil carbon method estimates changes in soil carbon on agricultural land using default soil carbon enhancement values that were derived from FullCAM modelling and are provided in the CFI Mapping Tool.

If you would like to discuss this method or others that are available, catch up with Jo at the Field Days in the next couple of weeks.



New Research from Action on the Ground

WANTFA Research Manager Dr Matthew McNee is busy analysing results from the Action on the Ground projects.

Summer cover crops to improve productivity and reduce soil greenhouse gas emissions

White French millet has the potential to reduce your N₂O emissions from out of season rainfall events.

The results discussed in this paper come from the treatments:

- summer fallow with chemical weed control,
- millet crops grown for 16 weeks and
- millet crops grown for 21 weeks.

To read the full report click [HERE](#).

Precision placement of carbon amendments in no-tillage cropping system

This three year trial has been looking at how the precision placement of organic matter in the sub-soil and how this can benefit wheat production.

To read the full report click [HERE](#).

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