

# CARBON NEWS

# Issue 7



## **Welcome to the Spring edition!**

Harvest is here and all going well the yields will be through the roof. Hopefully this newsletter will give you some food for thought while you are busy on your headers, trucks and chaser bins.

New research in this newsletter shows that whole of farm production can be increased while emissions are being reduced. This is great news as the World Bank Group states that the world will need to spend US\$40 trillion in the next 35 years to prevent the global temperature rising above 2°C. Read on to find out how to save money, the planet and increase your farm production.

# Emissions Reduction Fund

Second auction 4-5 November 2015

Average price  
per tonne of  
abatement

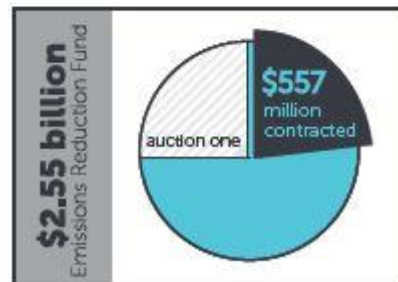
**\$12.25**



### Volume of abatement by method



**131**  
Projects  
under contract



The Clean Energy Regulator asserts the right to be recognised as author of the original material in the following manner:  
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**Average price of \$12.25 secures over 45 million tonnes of abatement at second auction**

Clean Energy Regulator

The Clean Energy Regulator has purchased over 45 million tonnes of abatement at an average price of \$12.25 per tonne at the second Emissions Reduction Fund auction held

on 4 and 5 November 2015.

The Clean Energy Regulator has awarded 129 carbon abatement contracts to 77 contractors, ranging from one to ten years in length, for a total value of almost \$557 million.

From both auctions there is a portfolio of carbon abatement contracts that will deliver almost 92.8 million tonnes of abatement at an average price of \$13.12. This represents a total commitment of \$1.2 billion in round terms.

A summary of the Emissions Reduction Fund auction results is available on the [auction results page](#).

Information on the contracts awarded is found on the [Carbon Abatement Contract table](#) and details about projects registered under the Emissions Reduction fund are available on the [project register](#).

For more information about how to participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund visit the [Emissions Reduction Fund pages](#).



### **Brown manuring of lupins in Bolgart**

Trevor Syme has been working with Wheatbelt NRM to find out if brown manuring of lupin crops can help his soil fertility and improve the level of soil carbon. Trevor is interested in bringing lupins back into his cropping rotation as they were once 50% of his programme.

Read how to improve your soil carbon and find out if you can participate in the ERF [HERE](#).

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## Reduce your farm emissions and improve livestock production webinar

Methane emissions from livestock are indicators of an enteric fermentation system not running at full efficiency. There are ways to reduce your livestock emissions and they improve the production levels of your livestock.

Prof. Phil Vercoe's webinar showcased methods that improve production in your animals and reduce emissions. If you missed it, listen to it [here](#)

If you would like to read the full report of findings from the National Livestock Methane Programme click [HERE](#)

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### Fertcare video

Are you struggling to understand how nitrous oxide emissions can be managed in soils? This cool video shows how the use of the right product, rate, time and place principles can do this.

This video was produced as part of the Fertcare carbon farming project.

To watch video click [HERE](#)

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## **New Beef Cattle Method Available**

The Department of Environment has recently released a new method for Beef Cattle Herd Management. This method covers whole herd management to reduce emissions intensity. This can be done by following activities:

- **Improve cattle productivity e.g. by increasing the ratio of liveweight to age in the herd**
  - This will enable target weights to be reached earlier and will result in reducing the number of days for which cattle produce emissions.
- **Reduce the average age of the herd**
  - This will result in cattle producing emissions for fewer days and will avoid emissions from older cattle with declining productivity.
- **Reduce the proportion of unproductive animals in the herd**
  - This will provide more grazing area for productive animals and can help increase birth rates and survival.
- **Change the relative numbers in each livestock class within the herd e.g. by taking action to improve weaner survival**
  - This will increase the herd's liveweight gain and can reduce emissions because a smaller herd with fewer breeding cattle can produce the same or greater liveweight.

Enteric fermentation from livestock accounts for over 7% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, of which cattle are the biggest producers.

This method is currently being used to create a new method looking at sheep flock management.

To find out more info, check out the clean Energy Regulators page [HERE](#)

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## Deeper look at Soil Chemistry

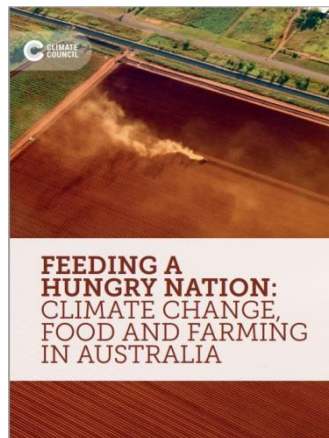
### GRDC Groundcover

Understanding your soil chemistry can help your overall cropping productivity. Soil testing to depth can allow for a more targeted fertiliser regime which can lead to overall soil health improvements.

Only applying the fertiliser needed can also reduce whole of farm emissions when looking at the life cycle analysis of fertilisers. The majority of emissions come from the transport of the product from the country of origin.

To read about 3 farmers looking at their soils to depth go [HERE](#)

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## Feeding a Hungry Nation Report

The Climate Council have recently released a report looking at the impact of climate change on food and farming. Key findings include

- Climate change is making weather patterns more extreme and unpredictable, with serious consequences for Australia's agricultural production
- More frequent and intense heatwaves and extreme weather events are already affecting food prices in Australia
- Climate change is affecting the quality and seasonal availability of many foods in Australia

To find out more click [HERE](#)

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## Aggregation Questions Answered

The Department of Environment has been looking into questions raised by people on the role and

responsibilities of aggregators and what questions need to be asked before signing on the dotted line.

Aggregators are people or companies that bring smaller emissions reduction/sequestration projects together that would be unable to offer into the Clean Energy Regulator auction. The minimum size that can be bid into the auction is 2000 tonne/CO<sub>2</sub>-e/year.

If you are interested in running a small project and need some advice on aggregation, you will find fact sheets and FAQ information [HERE](#)

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### **Losses of wheat yields are predicted due to rising temperatures**

A recent article from Farming Futures is looking at the comparisons of different crop simulation models, in field and laboratory experiments results to come up with a prediction of wheat yield into the future. By understanding the response of wheat to temperature mitigation and adaption options can be implemented to ensure continued grain yield into the future.

Read the entire article [HERE](#)

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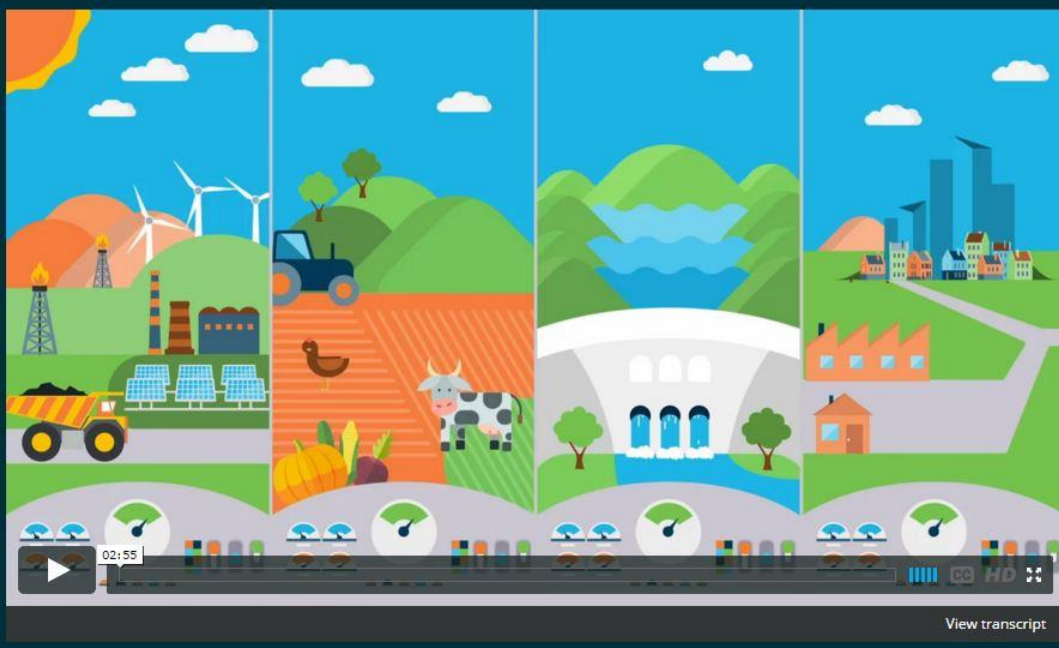
### **AGFACE - The project**

Funding from GRDC is helping research the effects of rising environmental CO<sub>2</sub> in Victoria. Project AGFACE, is investigating the impact of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> levels on crops. Watch 3 short videos on GC TV to see how the project is progressing. Click [HERE](#)

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# Australian National Outlook 2015

Economic activity, resource use, environmental performance and living standards, 1970–2050



This CSIRO report is a new way of looking at Australia's future. CSIRO have combined 9 of the world's leading economic and environmental models, and employed over 40 research scientists. They have been looking at 20 possible future pathways and their impacts on energy, food and water. The science is also looking at the impacts of those pathways on people, industry, the landscape and the ecosystem.

CSIRO believe the future is positive and the economy will continue to grow, with little impact on the environment, as long as we make the right choices.

To read the report and look at the new website go to [www.csiro.au/nationaloutlook](http://www.csiro.au/nationaloutlook)





# Emissions Reduction Fund Update

Department of Environment

## 2015-16 Priority activities

The Minister for the Environment has determined the 2015-16 priority activities for method scoping and potential development under the Emissions Reduction Fund, following consultation with Technical Working Groups, the public and the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee.

The priorities are determined to ensure that activities offer the greatest opportunity for uptake and genuine abatement. The prioritisation is an annual process and provides a 12 month forward work plan for method scoping and development. The sectors where activities will be scoped and their feasibility tested for potential method development in 2015-16 are listed below.

### **Agriculture**

Activities for scoping include reducing emissions from fertilizer use in sugar cane production, reducing emissions from sheep flock management and soil carbon sequestration.

### **Energy Efficiency**

Activities for scoping include coverage of community buildings; improvements to the energy efficiency of boilers, pumping systems, compressed air systems, and reducing emissions from air conditioning systems in industrial and commercial settings; and a technology-neutral energy efficiency sampling method.

### **Industrial Process**

Scoping will include an industrial process efficiency method that would reduce Scope 1 emissions of industrial process gases.

### **Transport**

Scoping will include a transport mode shift sub-method as an extension to the existing land and

sea transport method.

### **Vegetation**

Activities for scoping include savanna sequestration, abatement through avoided degradation and rehabilitation of Australian woodlands and protection and restoration of mangroves for sequestration and carbon storage.

### **Waste**

Activities for scoping include waste to energy projects that could provide incentives to avoid or destroy emissions associated with current waste disposal practices.

The full list of priority activities is available on the [Department's website](#).

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