

WANTFA secures federal funding to help WA growers benefit from the Carbon Farming Initiative

LAUREN CELENZA, WANTFA EXTENSION MANAGER

WANTFA has secured \$800,000 in Federal funding to help WA farmers participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, announced in April that 24 projects would share in \$20 million under the Commonwealth Government's Carbon Farming Futures Extension and Outreach Program.

The only WA project, 'Overcoming barriers for WA growers to participate in the CFI', aims to build farmers' knowledge and capacity to participate in the CFI across Western Australia through dedicated extension staff and by educating local agricultural advisors, emphasising the synergies between the outcomes of the CFI and farm productivity.

WANTFA Executive Director Dr David Minkey said the group were excited to be receiving this challenging but essential project for WA.

'We want to inform the growers of Western Australia about the fantastic synergies that exist between the outcomes of the CFI, in sequestering carbon and reducing emissions, and farm productivity and adaptation to a changing climate,' Dr Minkey said.

The CFI is a voluntary carbon offset scheme that provides a financial incentive for farmers and land managers to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases or to sequester carbon in the landscape. Additionally, the CFI will increase the land sector's resilience to a changing climate, protect Australia's natural environment and enhance long-term farm productivity.

'These grants will be used by organisations to provide clear and credible information to farmers and land managers about how they can reduce emissions on farm and participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative,' Minister Ludwig said.

'The Gillard Government is already investing in research and trialling the techniques in the farm environment, and these grants share the how-to information with farmers.

'The Extension and Outreach projects will help people learn how to integrate greenhouse gas emissions management into their normal business and land management practices.

'The funding supports a range of activities that will ultimately see farmers and landholders participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative, which could see them earn a second income stream.'

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