



Autumn Edition

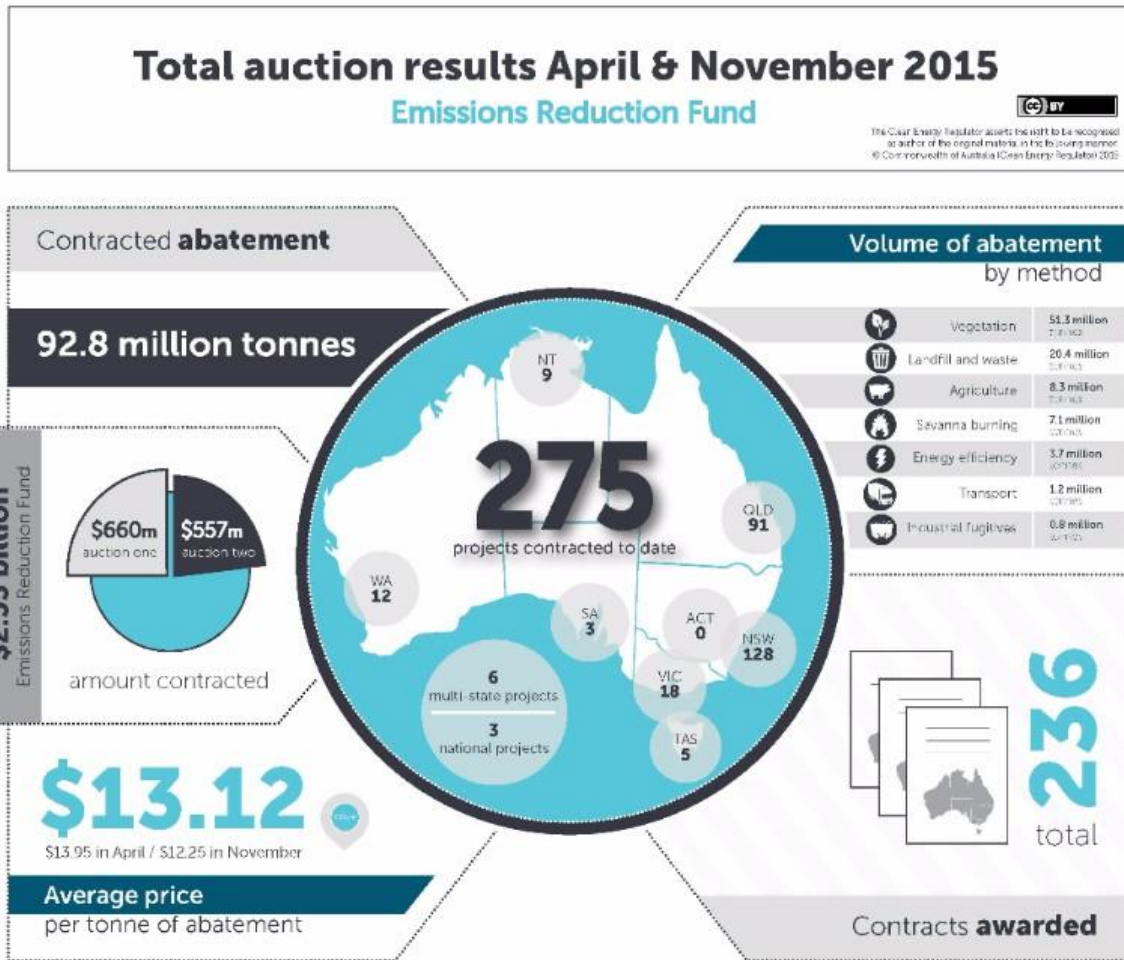
Over March we held several workshops highlighting that carbon farming means more than just carbon. The workshops looked at soil nutrition, crop rotations and soil compaction and how improvements in these areas can help farm profitability and productivity.

The Newdegate workshop included a visit to **Nick Kelly's** farm to have a look at their farm set up. The photo above is the root ball of Nick's volunteer millet crop taken on the day of the workshop in March. It is quite inspiring seeing crops growing and setting seed over the driest part of the year. We would like to thank the Kelly family again for allowing us to visit.

We will be holding more of these workshops in 2016, if you would like one to come to your area please let us know.

Things to watch out for:

- Webinar 4 with Dr Louise Barton looking at "fit for purpose landuse"
- Results from the 3rd Clean Energy Regulator ERF Auction - released 6th May
- Dates and locations of July/August Nutrition-Compaction-Rotations workshops - coming soon



**Emission Reduction Fund (ERF)
Auction Results**

12 projects located in WA have been successful in obtaining Carbon Abatement Contracts with the Clean Energy Regulator. These projects use a mixture of methods including revegetation, landfill and methane burning. Nationwide there has been a total of 275 successful projects.

There are currently 37 projects registered with the Clean Energy Regulator within WA that

are eligible to bid into the next auction. There have been 562 projects registered as ERF projects nationwide.

There will be two ERF auctions in 2016. Auction 3 will be held on 27-28 April and the fourth auction will be in the latter part of the year. The budget for the next two auctions is set at \$1.33 billion, which is slightly more than half of the original budget



Soil Renovation

Looking to renovate your soils? Check out this new video to see the process in slow motion.

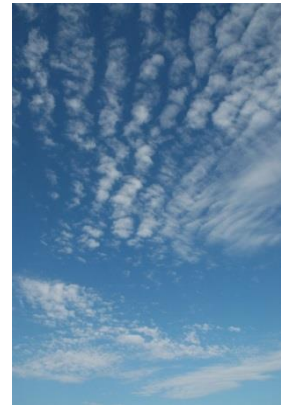
In a trial funded by GRDC in partnership with DAFWA different tillage machines and incorporation techniques are being studied to see how the soil actually moves. The tillage can be used to incorporate lime, nutrients and deal with other paddock issues such as weeds. By removing soil constraints and improving soil health, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced and paddock production will be improved.

Check out the video [here](#).

Quarterly Update of Australia's Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Commonwealth of Australia

Australian agricultural emissions have reduced by 3.6% as reported in the Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory: September 2015. This has been mainly due to a reduction in the population of beef cattle within Australia and emissions reduction in key crops. The reduction in emissions in agriculture has helped offset the increase in the electricity, transport, and industrial sectors.

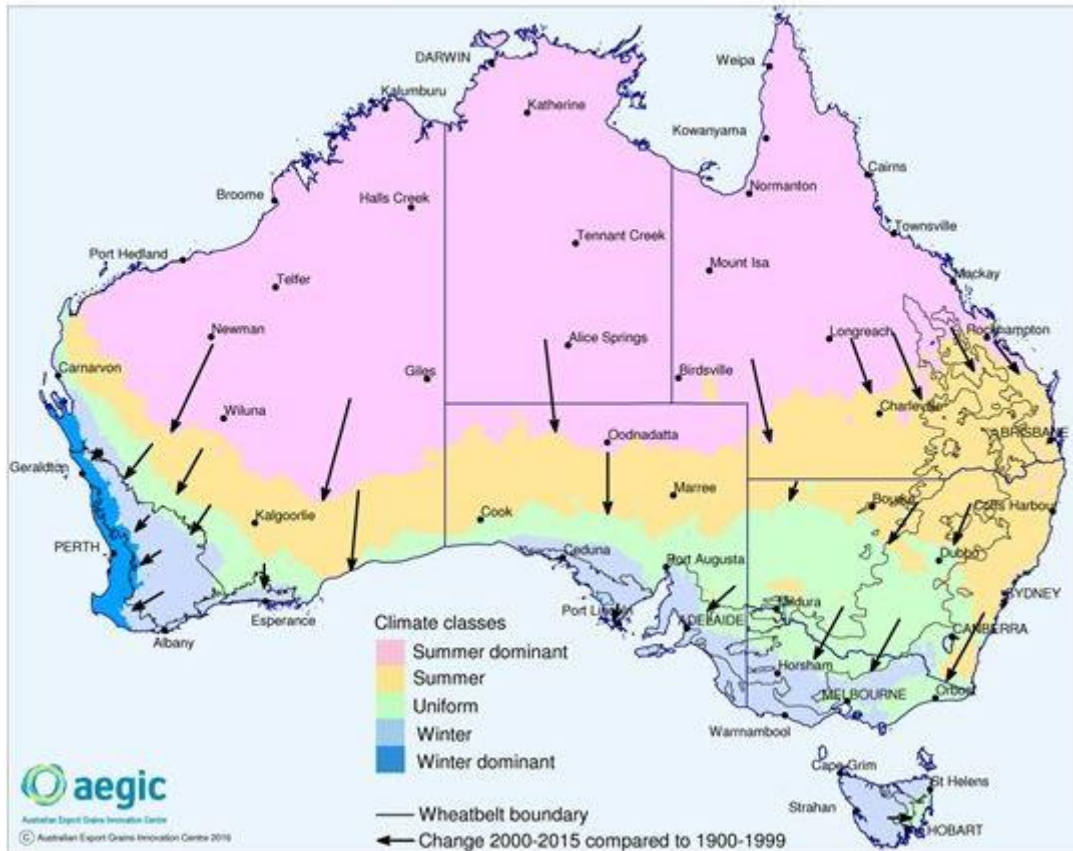


Per capita emissions and emissions intensity were at their lowest levels in 26 years with emissions per capita falling 28.6 per cent since 1990, and the emissions intensity of the economy falling 53.4 per cent since 1990.

To read the full report click [here](#)

Australia Seasonal Rainfall Zones

Based on rainfall data 2000-2015



New Climate Zones for Australia

The Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre has recently released maps that indicate the climate in Australia is changing based on the last 16 years of rainfall data. There is a trend towards summer rainfall increasing across the grain growing areas of Australia, with a decline of 10-30% of winter rainfall in the same areas.

To read the full report click [here](#)



Increasing aridity reduces microbial diversity

phys.org

A reduction of soil carbon and increasing temperatures are thought to be the cause in the reduction of diversity of soil microbial communities. A study looking at 80 dryland sites across the world have shown that the role of climate change and increasing aridity has a direct influence on the ecosystem services of the soil.

Read more [here](#)



Elevated CO₂ Levels and Crop Production

Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre

Increased CO₂ levels can act as a fertiliser but there is likely to be other impacts on crop quality. The AGFACE trial being conducted in Horsham Victoria and in other locations around the world is also looking at plant water, nutrient and below ground dynamics to understand the impact of future climates on plant production and crop quality. If these effects can be understood then long term adaptation strategies can be implemented.

To read more click [here](#)



Eyes in the Sky

New instruments on Macquarie Island will help weather forecasters and atmospheric scientists predict weather and climate models within Australia. Currently there is a gap in data on Southern Ocean clouds which is affecting the accuracy of weather and climate predicting models.

The instruments will be on Macquarie Island for 2 years before moving to Antarctica.

To read more click [here](#)

Photo: Richard Youd



The Hottest Year on Record (again)

The Climate Council

The key findings of this report were:

1. 2015 was the hottest year on record globally. Climate change was a major factor in driving the record-breaking heat in 2015 worldwide.
2. Climate change is a major factor in extreme heat and fire in Australia.
3. Temperature records are being smashed across many regions of the world, largely through the influence of climate change.

To read the whole report click [here](#)

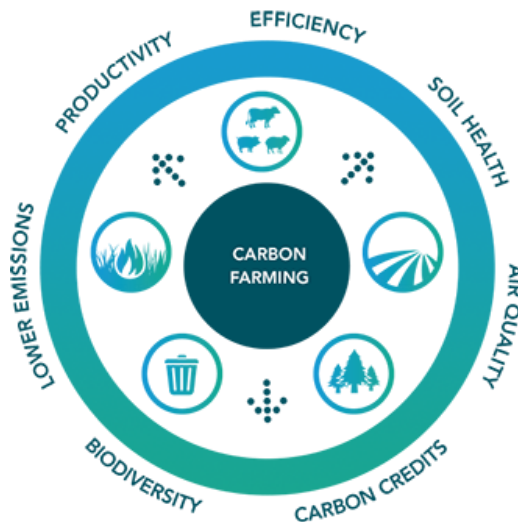


Adelaide has Low Carbon Entrepreneur Contest

Adelaide is working towards becoming the world's first carbon neutral city. They are looking for entrepreneurial ideas from around the globe that can reduce Adelaide's carbon emissions in the areas of energy, transport, waste and liveability.

To read more and enter the contest click [here](#)

Image: southaustralia.com



Mycarbonfarming.com.au

Visiting this website is a great way to start learning about carbon farming, the Emissions Reduction Fund and the projects that are going on around Australia.

Farmers undertaking carbon farming activities can benefit from:

- **Improved productivity**
- **Efficiency gains**
- **Better soil health and decreased salinity**
- **More efficient water use**

When undertaking carbon farming activities there are co-benefits for the environment we all share like:

- **Lower greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Cleaner waterways**
- **Better biodiversity**
- **Improved air quality**
- **Healthier forests**

To read more click [here](#)

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