



Winter Edition

WANTFA has been busy delivering workshops across the grain growing areas of WA. Last month we were down in Kendenup and Cranbrook looking at trials and delivering information about soil health and carbon farming activities. We have a couple more workshops to run this year, so keep an eye out for the flyers and come and listen to a range of soil experts.

Events to watch out for:

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Nutrition - Compaction - Rotations workshop - Boyup Brook - 21 Sept

Dowerin Field Days - come and talk carbon farming at Site 102 on the Oval

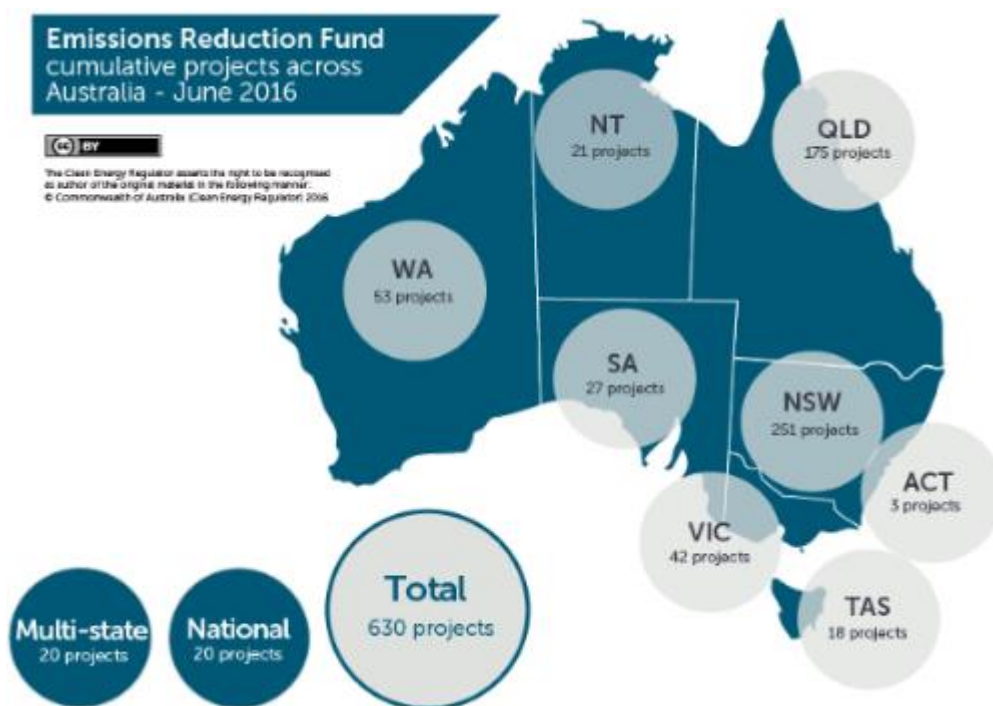
Deep Ripper Demo Day – August 30 – Bolgart, Wongan Hills

WANTFA Spring Field Day – September 1 – Cunderdin

Newdegate Field Days - come and talk carbon farming in the NRM tent on the Oval

Updated Data from the Clean Energy Regulator

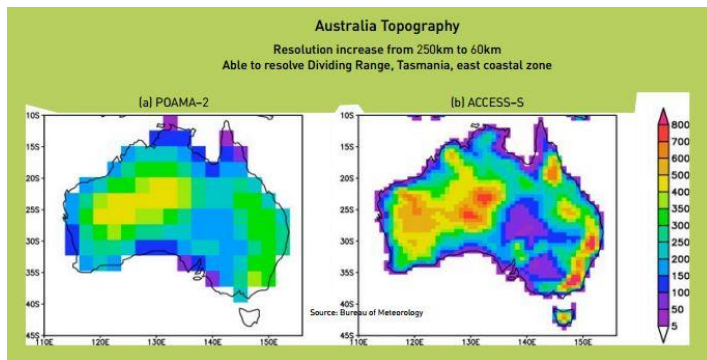
See the latest infographics from the Clean Energy Regulator below, showing the number of projects registered in the Emissions Reduction Fund, the methods the projects are using and the number of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) that have been allocated to these projects.



National Cumulative figures as at 31 June 2016	
	Total number of registered Emissions Reduction Fund projects 630
	Total number of Australian carbon credit units issued 26 162 256

November 2015 registered projects by method type									
Method type									Total
Registered projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Western Australia									
Projects by method									Total
	1	0	10	0	0	2	30	10	53



Latest Edition of CliMag

Have you caught up with the latest info from CliMag. It's chock-full of articles from the new Access-S system, the POAMA replacement to the nitrogen conundrum faced by farmers.

To read Edition 27 click [HERE](#)

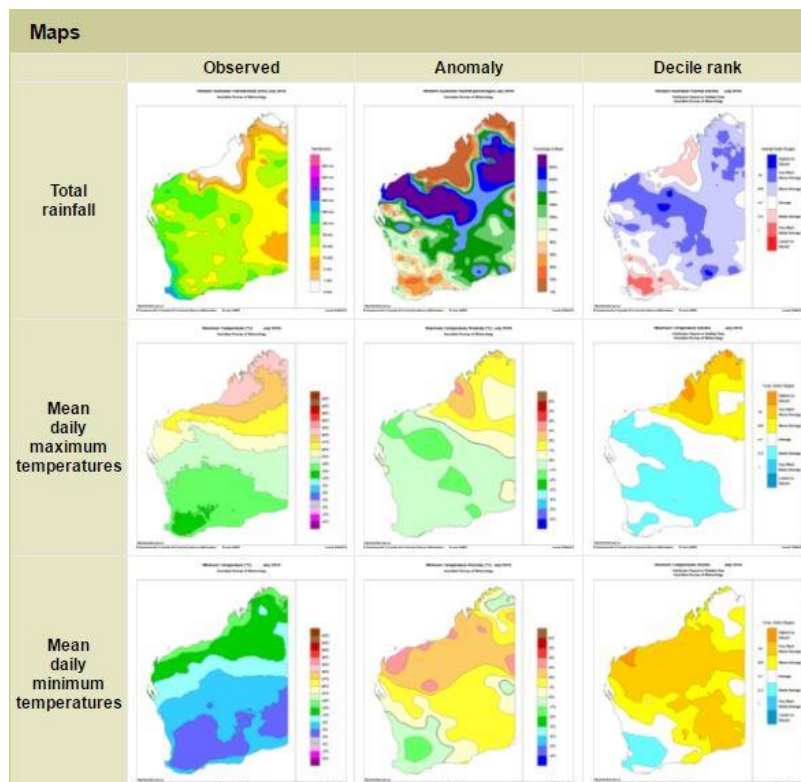
Economic Value of Soil Carbon

CSIRO Publishing

Soil Organic Carbon is essential to soil health and productivity. New economic data from WA researchers, E Petersen & F Hoyle, estimate that the marginal value of one tonne of soil carbon is AU\$7.10-8.70/t C/ha/yr. This estimate is due to the value of sequestration, nitrogen replacement and improved production benefits.



To read more from CSIRO publishing click [HERE](#)



A wet month with warmer night time temperatures for most of WA.

To read more click [HERE](#)



Frosts - Implications for growing wheat

CSIRO Publishing

New research is showing that the average length of the frost season has increased by 26 days across the grain growing regions of Australia despite an increase in average temperature.

To read more click [HERE](#)



Identifying opportunities in a changing climate

By Jenni Metcalfe

ECOS

One farmer from the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia is looking to achieve better production by adapting to the changing climate rather than focusing on the problems it is creating.

To read more about the journey of this family farm in creating a new plan click [HERE](#)

Understanding the IOD

BoM

Ever wondered how the Indian Ocean Dipole worked and how it affects the weather in Australia. The Bureau of Meteorology has release a quick video explaining this weather pattern.

To watch the video click [HERE](#)



A no-till system with compaction is NOT a no-till system

Lauren Celenza and David Minkey, WANTFA

There's no doubt that no-till has brought WA growers fantastic benefits over the past three decades, including efficiency, moisture retention and soil structure. Before no-till took off in the 1990s farmers had to wait until rain to plough up and then sow crops, they knew from experience that if they ploughed up dry, sandy topsoils would blow and cause widespread degradation. Successful farm trials in the late 80s with one pass seeding using tines and discs lead to some early adoption in 1990. News was spreading of how well it worked, and not long after was the formation of WANTFA in 1992. The growers and researchers who formed WANTFA helped influence the rapid adoption of the system in WA over the next decade, until around 95 per cent of the States growers were no-tillers. But with the many benefits of no-till came some compromises and, particularly in the past ten years' farmers have been somewhat reluctantly needing to till again. Herbicide resistance, compaction, non-wetting topsoils and stubble-born disease issues are increasingly becoming a problem. A no-till system with compact, acidic or non-wetting soil is not a sustainable no-till system. No-till was formed from a need to protect and build soil health, and now we have a need to fix the constraints compounded by it, but is tillage the answer?

In comes, strategic tillage. To WANTFA, tillage is 'strategic' if it's going to alleviate a constraint and therefore help set up the soil for a successful and profitable (long-term) no-till crop afterwards. It can be seen as beneficial if it aids in things like soil compaction, non-wetting, acidity and herbicide resistant weeds and leads to a robust, healthy crop and abundant soil cover in the following years. What WANTFA wants to achieve now, is to help farmers chose which method, if any, is the best for them, and to ensure they have the right advice on pre and post tillage management to minimise any soil degradation that could occur. For some

farmers, the thought of going back to tillage is a frightening one, and it's important to highlight that there could be other ways of alleviating a constraint before factoring in tillage.

Compaction is becoming a huge issue in many no-till systems today. No-till farming, without tramlines, can create a compaction problem worse than any issues arising from a tilled field. By driving over the paddock without tillage the seeding, spraying and harvesting machinery all create compaction. Also, while some soils can soften themselves up with reduced traffic, most sands cannot. WANTFA, therefore, supports the idea of a strategic tillage followed by the adoption of a tramline system – otherwise we are just re-compacting the soils over time which is not a conservation farming system.



WANTFA Project: Carbon Farming

Visiting our [website](#) is a great way to learn about carbon farming, the Emissions Reduction Fund and find information relevant to WA.

The resources created by this project over the last two and a half years are all available on the website. This includes webinars on the life cycle analysis of farm inputs, livestock management to reduce GHG emissions and soil carbon in long term no-tillage systems, as well as fact sheets on carbon farming activities and the methods that are relevant to WA farmers. Past newsletters and WANTFA journal articles are also kept here.

If you are a farmer you can gain benefits by participating in carbon farming activities such as:

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

Your local environment and community will benefit as well.

To read more click [HERE](#)

You can always follow us on Twitter: [@WANTFA_Carbon](#) and [@WANTFA_farming](#)

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Our mailing address: WANTFA, Private Bag 5, Wembley WA 6913

Phone: 08 93837630

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