

CARBON NEWS Issue 14



Summer Edition

#Harvest2016 is now well under way in all regions. We hope there are some better yields than predicted in the frosted areas around the wheatbelt.

Stay tuned for webinar information as we are currently organising the next round. These are a quick way of getting information to you and you don't even need to leave home. Register your interest and you can get the recorded webinar to listen to at any time, even in the header or truck while you're waiting in the queue. Contact us if you have a specific carbon farming topic that you would like to hear about.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Results of the 4th Emissions Reduction Fund Auction

Results of the fourth ERF Auction have recently been released with the price per tonne of abatement rising slightly from Auction 3. There were 47 contracts awarded and 49 projects contracted. There was one successful project from WA conducting revegetation in the Pilbara Region.

Fourth auction 16-17 November 2016
Emissions Reduction Fund
Released 24 November 2016

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Average price per tonne of abatement
\$10.69

CO₂-e
Contracted abatement

34.4
million tonnes

\$367m
Auction 4

\$2.55 Billion
Emissions Reduction Fund

More than \$440 million remains

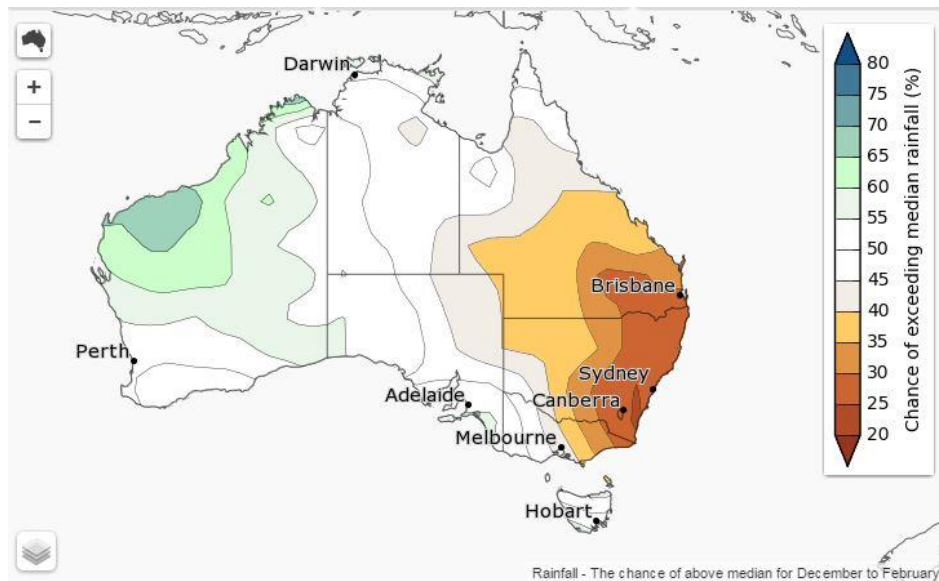
Percentage of abatement accepted below benchmark price
98.6%

47

Contracts awarded

49
Projects contracted

The Clean Energy Regulator did not deplete the Emission Reduction Fund and there is \$440 million remaining. News of further auctions will be released soon.



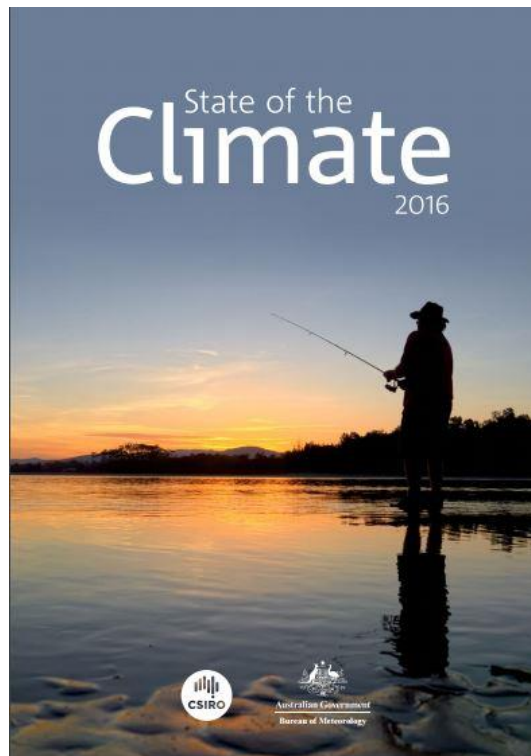
Drier and warmer December due to northward shift in SAM

BOM

There is currently a shift to the north of the position of westerly winds and high pressure systems (also known as 'Southern Annular Mode'). This typically means that Australia becomes drier and warmer than usual. This translates in WA to a December that will be drier than average in southern WA, but the north will be wetter.

El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral and the negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event has ended.

To read more click [HERE](#)



State of the Climate Report 2016

BOM and CSIRO

This report draws together the latest science, monitoring and modelling to show the likelihood of change in the future. The observations so far show long term climate change interacting with the natural variability within Australia.

Key points from the Report

- Australia's climate has warmed in both mean surface air temperature and surrounding sea surface temperature by around 1 °C since 1910.
- The duration, frequency and intensity of extreme heat events have increased across large parts of Australia.
- There has been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, across large parts of Australia since the 1970s.
- May–July rainfall has reduced by around 19 per cent since 1970 in the southwest of Australia.
- There has been a decline of around 11 per cent since the mid-1990s in the April–October growing season rainfall in the continental southeast.
- Rainfall has increased across parts of northern Australia since the 1970s.
- Oceans around Australia have warmed and ocean acidity levels have increased.
- Sea levels have risen around Australia. The rise in mean sea level amplifies the effects of high tides and storm surges

To read more click [HERE](#)



Trees help create clouds and therefore cool climate

The Conversation

Most clouds need tiny airborne particles to act as 'seeds' for their formation and growth. The more seeds the more droplets the cloud contains and therefore the brighter it will appear and reflect away more sunlight from the earth's surface.

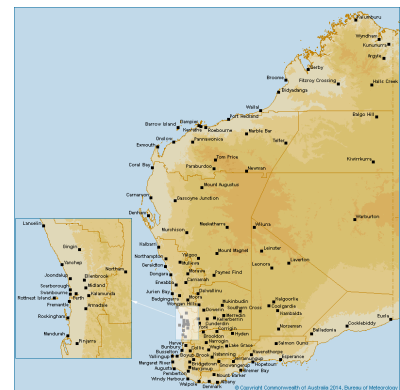
A European-based CLOUD research program has recently discovered that terpenes, gases emitted by trees, can stick together to make new seeds for clouds in the atmosphere.

Even today trees produce a large fraction of cloud seeds over the cleanest forested parts of the world.

To read more click [HERE](#)

New BOM weather app

Bureau of Meteorology has developed a new app featuring temperature, wind and humidity, and chances of rain for any location in Australia. It also provides radar images (which can be zoomed in and out easily), warnings, and three-hourly and week ahead forecasts. You can also save your favourite location.



All information is refreshed automatically when you open the app unlike the website

To read more click [HERE](#)



Seven farming practices that definitely build soil health

SOIL

A UK review found that only 7 out of 27 farming practices considered to maintain or enhance soil health had research supporting the effectiveness. These 7 practices that build soil health included the use of nutrient management (organic and inorganic amendments); cover crops; crop rotations; intercropping between crop rows or underneath the main crop; formulated chemical compounds (such as nitrification inhibitors); control of traffic and traffic timing; and reducing grazing intensity.

To read more click [HERE](#)



Farmers to improve grain yields by increasing organic matter in soil

Researchers at the University of Western Australia are encouraging farmers in south-western Australia to increase organic matter in soils. Through a 2.5 year field study, Dr Louise Barton (UWA) and her team, have shown an increased organic matter can improve crop productivity, improve grain yield and can potentially increase nitrogen availability thus lowering the need for additional nitrogen and other fertilisers.

To read more click [HERE](#)

Soil inversion- lower frost risk

GRDC Ground Cover

GRDC-funded trials in Western Australia and South Australia over the past decade have shown spading, along with soil-inversion, deep-ripping and stubble-management tactics, can help increase soil-heat storage. The research found that when the soil is wet there is more heat stored in the upper 10 to 30-centimetre layer than when the soil is dry.

To read more click [HERE](#)



New carbon farming technology to drive up grazier's profits



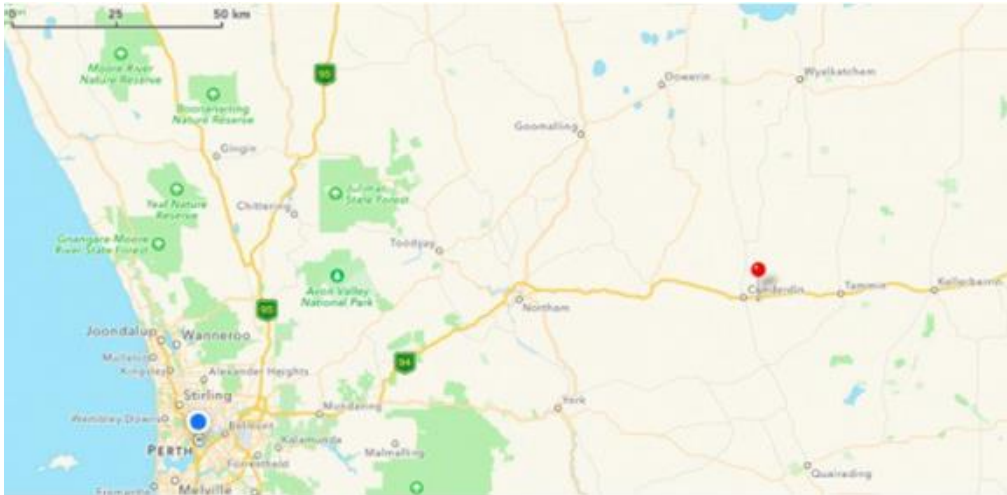
ABC

Carbon Link has recently secured \$1 million from the Federal Government to commercialise a precise soil testing system to accurately measure levels of soil organic carbon.

Initial soil samples will be drilled to determine the base level of carbon in the soil. Then crops and grasses are then planted/grown to pull carbon from the air into the ground. In five years, the soil will be sampled again to determine how much carbon they have managed to store, earning the farmers money.

The technology opens up another opportunity for producers to earn an income from their store carbon in the soil to polluters under the Emissions Reduction Fund.

For more information click [HERE](#)



Solar farm in Cunderdin with dreams to grow vegies with solar power

Sun Brilliance plans to build a 100 MW solar farm east of Perth, which will be the biggest solar farm in West Australia by size, and the biggest to date in Australia by output. It will produce more electricity than Australia's current biggest solar farm, the 102MW Nyngan facility in western NSW.

The solar farm will be built on farming land on the outskirts of Cunderdin.

To read more click [HERE](#)



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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