



Bi-monthly e-newsletter Aug 2011 7th edition

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### CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE LEGISLATION PASSED BY PARLIAMENT

As you would be aware, the legislation to underpin the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) was passed by Parliament on 23 August 2011. According to the Australian Government the legislation will provide long-term certainty to participants of the CFI and underpin the environmental integrity and market value of carbon credits.

“The CFI Administrator will be operational in three months time, from the start of December 2011. Project proponents can then register to participate and open an account in the national registry of emissions units. Where CFI methodologies are available, project proponents can begin applying for approval of their projects (*Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency*)

Methodologies for landfill gas, reforestation, manure management and savannah burning have been developed and are currently being assessed by the interim Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee. The Government will work with stakeholders to develop other methodologies including reduced fertiliser use, increase in soil carbon, restoring rangelands, revegetation and avoided deforestation (*Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency*).

For further information, see [www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi).

### AN UPDATE ON CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE AND CARBON FARMING INITIATIVE

As you might be aware in July 2011, the Australian Government announced the Clean Energy Future package. The package has four pillars under which several new initiatives have been introduced: carbon price, renewable energy, energy efficiency and land use measures. The land use sector (\$1.7 billion) components of the Clean Energy Future package which are complementary to the Carbon Farming Initiative include:

- **Biodiversity Fund (\$946 million)** - Support for projects that establish, restore, protect or manage biodiversity carbon stores
- **Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund (\$22 million)** - Grants to support Indigenous participation in the Carbon Farming Initiative
- **Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund (\$44 million)** - Support for regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations to incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation components into existing regional NRM plans
- **Carbon Farming Futures (\$429 million)** - Assistance for landholders to participate in the Carbon Farming Initiative through: filling the research gap; developing methodologies; undertaking action on the ground and extension and outreach.
- **Carbon Farming Skills (\$4.2 million)** - Funding to be made available for training and accreditation of carbon brokers and aggregators so landholders have access to credible, high quality advice and carbon services
- **Carbon Farming Initiative Non-Kyoto Carbon Fund (\$250 million)** - Government purchase of land sector abatement that is not counted towards Australia’s emissions targets under current accounting rules
- **Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Advisory Board (\$4.4 million)** - Establishment of a permanent, expert board to provide advice on implementation of the measures.



While details are yet to be finalised, it is understood that DAFF will be responsible for administering three programs that sit under the \$429 million Carbon Farming Futures:

- **\$201 million will be used for filling the Research Gap:** To provide competitive grants funding to support research into emerging abatement technologies, strategies and innovative management practices that improve soil carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector and enhance sustainable agricultural practice.
- **\$99 million Action on the ground:** will provide grant funding to regional landholders and research, industry and farming organisations across Australia to undertake projects to implement innovative management practices to achieve sustainable outcomes, reduce emissions and boost soil carbon stores. Outcomes from the *Filling the Research Gap* program will be applied on-farm, ensuring that laboratory results can be replicated on the ground in real farming situations influenced by business and economic signals.
- **\$64 million Extension and Outreach:** will fund coordinated communication across an expanded national network of extension providers to provide information and support for landholders to participate in the CFI. Utilising the extension skills and networks of groups and organisations such as Regional Landcare Facilitators and Caring for our Country Officers, farming and industry bodies, research and development corporations, universities and state governments, funding will be available for a range of activities including workshops, field days and the engagement of additional extension officers.

More information on the Land Sector measures can be found in Chapter 9 of the Clean Energy Plan [www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/clean-energy-future/our-plan/](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/clean-energy-future/our-plan/). The Clean Energy Future plan is available at [www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au).

## CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### 2011-12 State NRM Community Action Grants now open

The WA Government has recently made available \$3 million to fund community projects as part of the 2011/12 State NRM Program.

Eligible groups can apply for grants of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 to help protect and conserve natural resource assets in Western Australia. Eligible groups include community groups, not-for profit organisations, local government authorities and education institutions. Groups must either be incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987* or be able to use a sponsor organisation for all financial management.

Applications must be received by **5 pm Friday 9 September 2011**. More information can be found on the State NRM Office's new website: [www.nrm.wa.gov.au](http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au)

### Be Natural Landcare Grant Round 2011

Landcare Australia and Be Natural are pleased to announce a \$125,000 grants program that will provide funding to voluntary environmental community groups (landcare, bushcare, coastcare, Dunecare, Rivercare and Friends of groups) across Australia. This grants program will enable groups to continue their great work in tackling local environmental issues by providing funding to help with the continuation of on-going projects.

Funding grants of up to \$5,000 to 25 local groups to help with the projects which have not received funding in the last 12 months. Through the grants program, groups will also be encouraged to find innovative ways of attracting more volunteers to their group and projects.

Applications close on **October 10th**. To download the grants criteria and application forms go to [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)



Source: [Landcareonline.com.au](http://Landcareonline.com.au)

## LANDCARE WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

### Waddy Forest LCDC's Field walk and Workshop on Boreholes, Bugs and Birds

On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011, NACC's Regional Landcare Facilitator and Waddy Forest LCDC teamed up to convene a field walk and workshop for participants to learn and hear the latest information on insects and birds as indicators of environmental health on farms and the implications for agricultural production and sustainability as well as the hydrology of the catchment. Twenty six volunteers and representatives from diverse range of stakeholder groups across the region attended.

The events started with a field walk in the remnant bushland of Waddy Forest catchment identifying diverse range of vertebrates, insects, birds and their foraging habitats. Four experts from Curtin University and the Department of Agriculture and Food were present in the field walk to provide comments and help identify various species of insects, bugs and birds.



Prof Steve Davies explaining different aspects of insects to the audience during field walk at Waddy Forest Catchments (picture taken by Ingrid Krockenberger)



Fiona Falconer grandson looking at Ants nest during the field walk in the Waddy Forest Catchment (Picture by Ingrid Krockenberger)

The field walk was followed by a workshop at the Coorow Community Centre. Featured in the workshop were Lindsay Bourke from the Department of Environment and Conservation who presented on the hydrological and climatic trends in the region and share his observations in the Buntine-Marchegee Catchment hydrology.

Professor Jonathan Majer and Professor Stephen Davies (both from Curtin University) shared on different aspects of insects and invertebrates (such as worms, snails, spiders, mites, millipedes and centipedes) and about how these creatures are indicators of environmental health.

According to Professors Majer and Davies, the habitats of many of these species have deteriorated markedly

because most of the land has been cleared for agricultural production. "With around 93% of the agricultural zone cleared, many species have retreated in their distribution or become extinct. Nevertheless, a number of species still persists in agricultural areas in the paddocks, remnant vegetation, reserves and road reserves but, the majority of these could soon be impacted by climate change." Prof Majer said it's often the smallest creatures that play a critical role in maintaining healthy landscapes. "What people often overlook is the role of invertebrates in a healthy and functioning ecosystem which is necessary to agricultural production and sustainability.

Prof Davies also made a remark that many of these creatures only survive because they can find living spaces, particularly around the homestead areas of the farm as these are usually not ploughed or burned. "However, if you want to maintain biodiversity or encourage animals to return

such as birds and reptiles, all you need to do is create corridors that will provide nest sites and a dense understory in remnant vegetation."



Prof Steve Davies speaking to the workshop audience in the Coorow Community Centre (Picture by Stanley Yokwe)

Also Wayne Parker of the Department of Agriculture and Food WA presented on the outcomes of the Grain and Graze biodiversity project conducted in 2008 to measure the extent at which mixed farming, cropping and grazing have contributed to a healthy landscape. The project also investigated the



Adele Kende of DAFWA with field walk participants in the remnant bushland at Waddy Forest Catchment (Picture by Ingrid Krockenberger)



Wayne Parker of DAFWA presented about Grain & Graze biodiversity project in the Coorow Community Centre (Picture by Stanley Yokwe)

level of impact birds have on neighbouring paddocks. According to Parker the number of species identified in the survey was dictated by the surrounding habitat. The high number of species found in the perennial pasture paddocks is the result of sown tree lines and larger trees in a neighbouring drainage line.

While the larger open spaces of the cropping and rotation paddocks don't provide the shelter required by smaller birds. Over and above their aesthetic birds have practical implications for the farm in which they live. Many birds feed on the insects from the paddocks surrounding their habitat.

The last speaker was Peter Mangano also of DAFWA who spoke about the pests and beneficial insects of crops and pastures with reference to host preference and landscape. According to Mangano landholders should consider an integrated pest management (IPM) plan which employs natural methods to control pest insects and only uses chemicals as a last resort as many birds feed on these bugs.

## LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

### Making Sand Productive Workshop and field day

NACC is currently teaming up with the Calingiri LCDC in organising a one day workshop and field walk for landholders across the region. The aim of the workshop is to increase landholders knowledge of the latest options available for managing and improving the productivity of their sandy soils.

#### Guest speakers include:

- Dr Margaret Roper of CSIRO who will be talking on the impact of farming practices on water infiltration in water repellent sandy soils
- Dr Stephen Davies of DAFWA who will speaking on various options available for managing water repellent sandplain soils and subsurface compaction
- DAFWA Senior Research Officer Chris Gazey will present on the current knowledge and management practices of soil pH to help landholders better understand how lime can be used to increase productivity
- Associate Professor Dan Murphy of UWA will lead a discussion on the management of soil carbon and
- Finally Deb Archdeacon of Custom Composts will talk about the health and fertility of sandy soils.

The workshop and field walk will be on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug at the Calingiri Sports Club, Lot 89 Cavell Street, Calingiri.

**RSVP essential for catering purpose please!** To express your interest, please contact Stanley Yokwe on 9938 0105 or email [Stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:Stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au) or alternatively you can contact Sarah Mason 9655 9082 or email [Carrahfarms@westnet.com.au](mailto:Carrahfarms@westnet.com.au).

This event is delivered through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Initiative.

### MIG Spring Field Day – 1st September 2011

Ideal seasonal conditions have set the Mingenew-Irwin Group's main trial site up for a spectacular field day, showcasing the latest varieties, nutrition and disease research and herbicide options.

In a new format, the Spring Field Day will kick off with a site visit to look at mouldboarding from 8.00 am Smart's Farm Eregulla Plains.

Registration at the main trial site at Michael's farm, 12 km west of Mingenew, will start at 9.30 with the formal kick off at 10.00 am.

For further information contact **Kathryn Fleay on 9928 1506**.



## West Midlands Group's Spring Field Day

**Date:** Tuesday 13th September

**Time:** 8.30am-5pm (members please register at 8.15am)

**Location:** Main Trial site at 'Wathingarra', North West Road, Badgingarra

**Cost:** \$10 'full members'; or \$50 for NRM and non members

**RSVP essential by 9th September:** West Midlands Group office on 9651 4008 or email [terri@wmgroup.org.au](mailto:terri@wmgroup.org.au)

## Landcare Week is September 5th-11th

Landcare Australia is promoting Landcare Week group activities and encouraging the community to donate themselves to their local group and lend a hand. Go to [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) to find a group or an event in their local area using the Find A Local Events section on the home page or Find A Local Group link to the National Landcare Directory (make sure you are registered). If you have a Landcare Week group activity LAL would like to promote this so people in your local area can volunteer or contact you for more information, please send information to [Melissa.whitelaw@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:Melissa.whitelaw@landcareaustralia.com.au)

## Bushcare's Major Day Out - 11 September

Bushcare's Major Day Out is an opportunity for each of us to join with others in the community and participate in the regeneration of the bushland in your local area. Just as Clean Up Australia Day has made us a litter conscious nation, Bushcare's Major Day Out aims to establish a day where we celebrate our concern and love for bushland and the process of Bushcare as an accepted and desirable part of our culture (*Bushcare groups around Australia*).

"Australia's bushland is the home for our wildlife. Agriculture relies on the insects and pollinators that live in it. But, our bushland is under threat from invasive species particularly garden escapes."

According to Bushcare groups around Australia, since the 1970s, when the Bradley sisters Eileen and Joan (a scientist) developed Bush Regeneration, thousands of volunteers and trained Bush Regenerators have helped regenerate the bush, tipping the balance back in the favour of our native species.

As people have settled up and down the east coast they have (for example) helped turn our coastal sand dunes from Bitou Bush (Boneseed) dominated places. In the process transforming the dunes and headlands to those that more closely resemble the past (*Bushcare groups around Australia*).

Bushcare's Major Day Out is one day of the year where we can all have a go at bushcare or simply come along and celebrate the part that the bush plays in our nation.

More sites are needed in all States - and more volunteers. For more information, visit: <http://bushcaresmajordayout.org>.

## Shire of Quairading Field Walk

The Shire of Quairading will run a field walk on claying, liming and lucerne establishment trials on Tuesday 30th August 2011 commencing at 2pm. The event will start at Pike Family Farm, 204 Edenvale Road, Brookton.

### Guest speakers include:

- Dr Richard Harper—Murdoch University—Soil Carbon
- Dan Carter—DAFWA—Soil water repellence & claying
- Kevin Williams—Wrightsons Seeds— Wilpena sulla, Stamina GT6 lucerne and Cropper 9.5 lucerne
- Justin Matthews—SACOA—Lure H2O
- Ted Watts—Greenline—GPS accuracies, mapping & latest products



For more information contact Andrew Pike on 96421071 or email: [pikfamilyfarm@bigpond.com](mailto:pikfamilyfarm@bigpond.com) or alternative you can contact Cheryl Shenton (Shire of Quairading) on 9645 0236 or [qshireclc@westnet.com.au](mailto:qshireclc@westnet.com.au)

## ENVIRONMENTAL Incentives AVAILABLE AT NACC

### NACC Wind erosion incentives

NACC has recently reviewed and updated their incentives programs. Tree crops now have further options on top of just oil mallees that include sandalwood and brushwood. The fodder shrub (saltbush) incentive has been doubled to a maximum incentive of \$8,000 which could help plant up to 47 ha of saltbush. There are also other incentives available: perennial pastures, strategic revegetation and rabbit control.

The incentives funded through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Program, will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Sites will be assessed against specific guidelines and criteria to ensure that on-ground works funded through the project deliver landscape-scale change and value for money.

Farmers and land managers undertaking on-ground works will also be offered 12 months membership to appropriate industry groups to enable them to access the latest technology and management information available. In addition to offering incentives, the project will also provide training and information dissemination opportunities to farmers and land managers involved in the project.

For more information regarding NACC's wind erosion incentives contact your local NRMO or phone Sarah Jeffery, Sustainable Farming Coordinator on 9938 0110.

