

## Local Growers Benefit from Carbon Farming Initiative

Soil improvement and innovative farm practices have received a major boost this month with the announcement of the Carbon Farming Initiative by the Federal Government. In a move which is certain to give strong support to Australian farmers, the Federal Government has announced plans to legislate to provide a real incentive for farmers to improve carbon levels in their soils along with a range of other measures which all target improved resilience of farmland.

Ken Bellamy of Townsville Based Prime Carbon was privileged to host a session at the recent Carbon Expo held in Melbourne at which Maya Stuart-Fox of the Department of Climate Change discussed aspects of the Carbon Farming Initiative. These included a recognition that improving carbon reserves in Australian soils had important co-benefits for farmers which go beyond the financial benefits which will be achieved. Additionally it was made clear that the Government intends to ensure that units generated out of carbon-building and other activities on farms would be internationally saleable as a result of plans by the Government to legislate standard provisions for the units created from these activities.

Following these announcements, the Government signalled its strong support for the process by announcing the names of a committee set up to evaluate methodologies used to generate carbon units under the Carbon Farming Initiative. Ms Stuart-Fox also gave a presentation detailing various aspects of the proposed Initiative in Dubbo at the Carbon Farmers Conference in mid October. At the same presentation, Prime Carbon and Carbon Farmers of Australia presented the committee with the first set of methodologies for configuration of a carbon offset unit under the Carbon Farming Initiative.

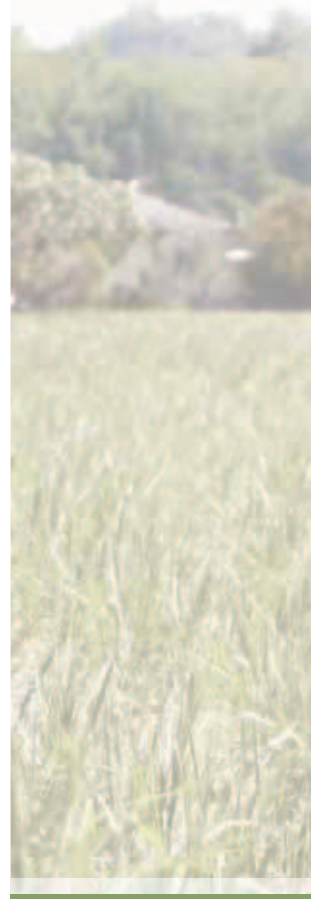
While there is still some way to go in determining exactly what shape a carbon unit generated from soil carbon improvement will take, it is clear that the government is intent on ensuring that there is a reward for farmers who improve the carbon stocks in their soil and undertake other sustainable activities. This is good news for farmers in the Burdekin who have already undertaken these sort of activities. Prime Carbon is very pleased to be part of this process and looks forward to the accreditation of its methodologies in line with the Carbon Farming Initiative.

Watch this space!



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