



## Accelerating adoption of climate-smart, sustainable agriculture



\$302.1 million

The Australian Government is partnering with industry to drive the transition to a more climate resilient, productive and sustainable agriculture sector. We will do this by investing in new programs through the Natural Heritage Trust that build climate resilience, increase market access and agricultural growth, while supporting sustainability outcomes.

### What's in this year's Budget

The 2023-24 Budget includes \$302.1 million over five years from 2023-24 for climate-smart, sustainable agriculture investments under the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT). The Climate-Smart Agriculture package will drive agricultural productivity, competitiveness and sustainability by supporting farmers to:

- adopt climate-smart practices that reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change
- understand and benefit from participation in carbon and biodiversity markets
- apply natural resource management practices that improve soil health and protect natural capital and biodiversity.

Investments will also strengthen First Nations engagement and participation to enable the agriculture sector to draw benefits from traditional knowledge and support First Nations agricultural enterprise.

### Impactful, on-ground, climate-smart, sustainable agriculture projects

Through effective on-ground projects, the government will support farmers to manage climate risks and invest in their on-farm natural capital and effective natural resources management, helping the sector to respond to climate change, better withstand future bushfires, floods and droughts and protect its productivity.

\$158.6 million will be delivered through projects that:

- support the agriculture sector to transition to a low emissions future and foster sustainable agriculture, including climate adaptation practices and emissions reductions technologies, and tools and extension services that support greater engagement in carbon and biodiversity markets
- trial, undertake on-farm demonstrations and implement practices that address local and regional natural resource management priorities and deliver long term sustainable agriculture outcomes.

## Improved soil health

Healthy and fertile soil underpins sustainability, improving the productivity and profitability of the agriculture industry and delivering wider community and environmental benefits. Empowering farmers to prioritise their soil health and strengthen their soil knowledge and capability will increase stewardship of their land and provide the tools to restore, improve and maintain soil health. In total the 2023-24 Budget includes \$56 million for soil measures to drive outcomes under the National Soil Action Plan.

Of this total, \$36 million will be invested to:

- design and deliver a new National Soil Monitoring Program to monitor soils nationally. Data collected will be consistent and made publicly available on the Australian National Soil Information System, which will also be improved as part of this funding. The data will support stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions to improve soil health at a range of scales.
- continue to support the Regional Soil Coordinators program and the National Soil Community of Practice, which will facilitate soil extension services and promote soil knowledge sharing and innovation for more effective and sustainable land management practices.

These investments complement the \$20 million *Partnering to Implement the National Soil Action Plan* budget measure. Further details on this initiative are in a separate fact sheet.

## Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators

To accelerate the adoption of climate-smart, sustainable agriculture practices, farmers need critical advice from trusted partners. The government is investing \$40.7 million to support a network of Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators to provide the extension services needed to improve farmers' knowledge and uptake of climate-smart practices and understanding of carbon and biodiversity markets to inform critical investment decisions for their future sustainability.

## Support for delivery partners

The government recognises the value of a strong network of delivery partners to support farmers to strengthen their sustainability and will provide \$35.7 million to ensure regional NRM delivery partners and peak national Landcare organisations maintain capacity and are primed to deliver climate-smart, sustainable agriculture actions efficiently and at scale.

## Why this is important

Australian farmers are adopting new practices to reduce emissions, build climate resilience and strengthen sustainability to respond to climate risks, secure their future and remain globally competitive. Actively managing emissions and increasing sustainability will be critical to maintaining and growing export markets and achieving the industry target of a \$100 billion agriculture sector by 2030.

Accelerated access to innovative technologies and sustainable farming practices will position farmers to strengthen productivity and competitiveness while transitioning to a net zero economy.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting the agriculture sector to sustainably manage the impacts of climate change, including the challenge of increasing food production to meet global demand, while reducing the impact of agricultural production on the environment. Most importantly, the Climate-Smart Agriculture package will ensure Australia's agriculture sector has a secure future and can continue to support thriving and prosperous regional communities.



## How much this will cost

	2023-24 \$m	2024-25 \$m	2025-26 \$m	2026-27 \$m	2027-28 \$m	TOTAL \$m
<b>Climate-Smart Agriculture</b>						
Driving impactful on-ground projects	34.784	31.121	29.977	30.279	32.480	158.641
Supporting national and regional NRM delivery partners	6.917	7.052	7.148	7.251	7.357	35.725
Supporting a network of Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators	7.800	8.003	8.147	8.302	8.459	40.711
Improving soil health and natural resources	4.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000	36.000
Delivering best practice program design and administration	6.761	5.713	6.240	5.629	6.650	30.993
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>60.262</b>	<b>59.889</b>	<b>59.512</b>	<b>59.461</b>	<b>62.946</b>	<b>302.070</b>

## More information

For more information about the Natural Heritage Trust visit [agriculture.gov.au](http://agriculture.gov.au)

For more information about the 2023–24 Budget visit [budget.gov.au](http://budget.gov.au)

