



Boosting capabilities to support a sustainable agriculture sector



\$38.3 million

The Australian Government is committed to implementing policies and programs that support the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors to adapt to climate change, boost economic and climate resilience and ensure that they can continue to prosper and grow into the future.

What's in this year's Budget

The Budget provides \$38.3 million over 4 years from 2023-24 and \$7.6 million per year ongoing from 2027-28 to strengthen the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's capability, particularly through the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). This investment will better position the department to support the productivity and profitability of its portfolio industries. It will improve the department's capacity to deliver the government's policy priorities of tackling climate change while boosting the economic resilience and productivity of our agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

Supporting a stronger and more sustainable agriculture sector

The \$38.3 million over 4 years will strengthen the work of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, particularly through ABARES, including:

- \$16.1 million to improve regional data sources. This data is fundamental to decisions made by industry and governments in responding to the changing climate along with broader applications in planning for and responding to biosecurity incursions. The data is also used by the National Emergency Management Agency in responding to natural disasters.
- \$9.4 million to collect information on the adoption of low emissions technologies and practices by farmers and develop better ways to make data and analysis collected by ABARES more timely and accessible.
- \$12.8 million to examine the effect of domestic and international emissions policies on Australian agriculture and regions, providing information to farmers that will help them make decisions about growing the future value of their businesses.

Why this is important

Australian farmers work in a challenging environment and highly variable climate. They are on the frontline of climate change and will need to continue adapting. The sector is responding to the need to produce more food and fibre to meet global demand, all while building sustainability and demonstrating performance to consumers and trading partners.

By investing in embedded expertise and capability in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, including improved analysis and data, the government can support portfolio industries to get access to climate, economic and market insights that they need to be able to prosper and grow.

Investing in ABARES will increase capacity to understand the risks and opportunities of adopting new technologies and help identify emerging issues for the sector in the global transition to a lower emissions future. These insights will help inform industry decision-making and enable the government to target policies and funding in areas that support Australian agriculture.

Boosting capability in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is also an investment in the government's ambitious climate agenda. It will ensure industry, agencies, governments and other stakeholders have the information they need to contribute to a lower-emissions, climate-smart future for Australian agriculture.

How much this will cost

	2023-24 \$m	2024-25 \$m	2025-26 \$m	2026-27 \$m	TOTAL \$m
Supporting a Stronger and More Sustainable Agriculture Sector					
Identifying and developing regional data sources through ABARES	2.809	4.376	4.411	4.450	16.046
Improvement of ABARES data collection and analytics infrastructure	5.773	3.590	-	-	9.363
Analysis of adoption of low emissions technology and the effect of emissions policies on Australian agriculture and regions	3.030	3.302	3.101	3.408	12.841
Subtotal	11.612	11.268	7.512	7.858	38.250

More information

For more information about a stronger and more sustainable agriculture sector visit agriculture.gov.au

For more information about the 2023–24 Budget visit budget.gov.au

