



# Funding rounds now open

## Funding opportunities are now available under the Caring for Our Country, Carbon Farming and Biodiversity Fund

THERE are a range of Australian government funding options which are currently open covering a range of programs.

These include the Caring for Our Country, Biodiversity Fund and a number around the Carbon Farming and the Clean Energy Futures program.

Funding options would be of interest to the broader Landcare community, including primary producers, indigenous communities, other land managers and organisations working in these areas.

Applications for these programs close late January/early February.

### Caring for Our Country – funding proposals invited

THE Australian government is seeking applications for grants for natural resource management and sustainable agriculture projects that address the business plan targets and can be completed by June 2013.

Funding of \$64 million is available under the business plan for projects in the 2012-13 financial year.

■ For information visit [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) or call 1800 552 008. Applications close February 9.

### Introduction to Carbon Farming Initiative, Land Sector Package and Carbon Farming Futures programs

The Australian government's Securing a Clean Energy Future plan released in July 2011 contains four basic elements – a carbon price; innovation in renewable energy; energy efficiency and action on the land (Land Sector package).

Details on the plan can be found on the Clean Energy Future website: [www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au)

The suite of measures under the \$1.7 billion Land Sector package include the Carbon Farming initiative, the Carbon Farming Futures program and the Biodiversity Fund.

The Carbon Farming Futures program will support research, on farm demonstration and extension into emerging abatement technologies, strategies and innovative management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, increase soil carbon and enhance sustainable agricultural practices.

The suite of measures under this program include Filling the Research Gap, Action on the Ground and Extension and Outreach.

### Action on the Ground grants

THE Action on the Ground program is a six year program that will invest

\$99 million to assist individuals and groups of landholders and researchers, industry and farming organisations across Australia to trial and demonstrate on-farm management practices and technologies to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and/or sequester carbon in soil.

The first round of Action on the Ground 2011-12 is now open for applications and will provide up to \$25 million in competitive grant funding for on-farm projects that trial and demonstrate innovative practices and/or abatement technologies that can lead to a reduction in agricultural greenhouse gas emissions (methane and nitrous oxide) and/or sequester carbon in soil, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural "wastes".

■ For information about Action on the Ground, including the round one guidelines and the on-line application form, visit [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/cfi/biochar](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/cfi/biochar) contact 1800 638 746 or email [biocharprogram@daff.gov.au](mailto:biocharprogram@daff.gov.au)

■ Applications for the Biochar Capacity Building Program will close 5pm (AEST) February 3. Eligible applications will be assessed through a competitive grants process.



### Biochar Capacity Building program

THE Biochar Capacity Building program will provide \$2 million in funding from 2011-12 to 2013-14 to assist the research and development of biochar use in Australia, as a practical mitigation option for land managers.

The Biochar Capacity Building program will support research, on-ground testing and demonstration of biochar to provide additional options for land managers to contribute to reducing Australia's carbon pollution.

This includes activities such as the research of biochar use as way of mitigating greenhouse emissions, testing and demonstration of biochar use on-farm and the development of biochar offset methodologies to enable land managers to participate in the CFI.



A range of grants are now available to help farmers improve the sustainability on their properties.

The Biochar Capacity Building program will complement work under the Climate Change Research program, including work through the National Biochar Research Initiative and the Soil Carbon Research program.

■ To view the guidelines, apply for funding or find out more visit [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/cfi/biochar](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/cfi/biochar) contact 1800 638 746 or email [biocharprogram@daff.gov.au](mailto:biocharprogram@daff.gov.au)

■ Applications for the Biochar Capacity Building Program will close 5pm (AEST) February 3. Eligible applications will be assessed through a competitive grants process.

### Filling the Research Gap

THE Filling the Research Gap program is a six year program that will invest \$201 million 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.

The first round of competitive grants funding will provide \$48 million to Australian businesses, research organisations or government agencies for the research of activities and practices aiming to reduce agricultural greenhouse emissions (methane and nitrous oxide), increase soil carbon and improve modelling capability.

Outcomes of Filling the Research Gap will contribute to enhancing agricultural productivity and unlocking new opportunities for land managers to participate in carbon farming and the Carbon Farming Initiative.

■ For information about Filling the Research Gap, including round one guidelines and application form visit [www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarming/ftrg](http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarming/ftrg) contact 1800 108 760 or email [ftrg@daff.gov.au](mailto:ftrg@daff.gov.au)

■ Applications for the first funding round will close 5pm (AEST) February 3. Eligible applications will be assessed through a competitive grants process.

### Biodiversity Fund – helping farmers protect biodiversity on the land

IT'S A great way to start 2012 – the Australian Year of the Farmer – by

launching the Biodiversity Fund, a program designed to help farmers restore, manage and better protect biodiversity on their land.

People who live and work on the land are only too aware of the connection between protecting biodiversity and keeping their land healthy and productive.

The Australian government will invest \$946 million over the next six years to help farmers and other land managers store carbon, enhance biodiversity and build greater resilience across the Australian landscape.

Through the following themes, the Biodiversity Fund will provide financial support to help land managers:

- increase native vegetation on their property through planting native mixed-species appropriate for their region;
- protect and enhance existing native vegetation on their property so they can maximise its carbon storage and biodiversity benefits;
- control the spread of invasive species through a connected landscape.

A productive environment and storing carbon in the landscape go hand in hand.



Some land managers may choose to build on the Biodiversity Fund projects by accessing carbon credits through the emerging carbon market.

Across Australia, farmers and other land managers do a great job looking

after biodiversity through initiatives such as Landcare.

The \$31 million available through the first round of the Biodiversity Fund will help farmers and other land managers continue their important work enhancing biodiversity on the land.

Applications are now open to eligible land managers in the agriculture, forestry or conservation sectors working on either private or public land.

■ For more information and grant application guidelines visit [www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture](http://www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture) or contact 1800 008 678. To receive regular updates about the Biodiversity Fund and other Land Sector Package measures email your details to [cleanenergyenviro@environment.gov.au](mailto:cleanenergyenviro@environment.gov.au)

■ Applications close 5pm (AEST) Tuesday, January 31.

### Greening Australia revegetation workshops

THROUGHOUT January, Greening Australia, with support from the Australian government, will conduct workshops on revegetation techniques across the country.

The purpose of the workshops is to harness Greening Australia's experience with the implementation of large scale revegetation projects and to provide land managers with information and tips for establishing successful biodiverse plantings.

This experience will help participating land managers maximise the outcomes of existing and new land management activities.

■ For information about the workshops, including details of how to participate, visit [www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au)



For information or to sign up for the monthly e-newsletter visit [www.landcarefacilitator.com.au](http://www.landcarefacilitator.com.au) or contact Brett de Hayr 0457 750 815.

Other contacts:  
● Caring for Our Country Regional Offices, Weeds, departmental contacts: [www.nrm.gov.au/contacts](http://www.nrm.gov.au/contacts)  
● Landcare Australia Limited: [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au)

The National Landcare Facilitator is an initiative of the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.