

Advisors named for new carbon and biodiversity board

The Australian Government has appointed members of the independent **Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board**, established as part of the **Clean Energy Future Plan**, which passed Parliament last month.



Credit: G.Heath/ScienceImage

The Board will advise the government on measures that will increase the land sector's resilience to climate change and improve long-term farm productivity. The measures will also assist landholders and regional communities to benefit from the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the sequestration of carbon in soil, living biomass or organic matter.

The Board will advise the Government on the implementation of its Land Sector Package, which includes the:

1. Biodiversity Fund
2. Carbon Farming Futures Fund
3. Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund
4. Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund
5. Non-Kyoto Carbon Fund
6. Carbon Farming Skills program

The members of the new Board are:

1. The Hon Bob Debus (Chair), a former state and federal government minister, who is also the Independent Chair of the National Wildlife Corridors Plan Advisory Group, which is assisting in the development of the government's National Wildlife Corridors Plan.
2. Professor Lesley Hughes, an expert in the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. Prof Hughes is a professorial fellow with the Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University; a commissioner with the Climate Commission; and a lead author on the IPCC fourth and fifth assessment reports.
3. Mr David Crombie, a former President of the National Farmers' Federation.
4. Mr Joe Ross, the former chair of the Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce and a member of the Bunuba people in the Kimberley. Joe has been facilitating the development of the National Indigenous Climate Change Project.
5. [Ms Anna Skarbek](#), Executive Director at Climate Works Australia; a member of the government's NGO roundtable on climate change; and a director of various boards including the Carbon Market Institute, Sustainable Melbourne Fund, Thermometer Foundation for Social Research on Climate Change and Linking Melbourne Authority.

In other news, the Climate Commission has released its second major report *[The Critical Decade: Climate Change and Health](#)*.

Prof Hughes, who co-authored the report, said that climate change 'is one of the most serious threats to Australians' health, especially those in our community who are already most vulnerable'.

'We depend on the environment, for clean air, safe water, tolerable temperatures and good food. Climate change is putting pressure on the systems that support us and our health.

'Climate change-related injury, disease and deaths will continue to grow in decades to come unless sustained action is taken by Australia and other nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is the critical decade for action.'

Source: Federal Ministerial press release, Climate Commission

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