



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor welcomes PM's commitment to soil carbon storage study

The Prime Minister's announcement of a study to examine how carbon storage in soils can be enhanced has been welcomed by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor recently asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke in the Parliament about the Government's policy with regard to the potential to sequester carbon in our soils through conservation farming practices and what role the new Government foresaw for agriculture's involvement in the development of a carbon market.

"The Minister's answer to my question recently and now the announcement by the Prime Minister of a study of soil's role in carbon storage is very encouraging for the farm sector to possibly be part of the carbon market and part of the solution package to climate change.

Mr Rudd's response to investigate how practices like low or no till soil management might give agriculture a role in carbon reduction markets is particularly pleasing as it recognises and could reward farmers for implementing sound conservation farming practices.

People in agriculture are dealing with the environment everyday.

It is in their interest both from a short and long term point of view to engage in farming practices which not only enhance yields and therefore economic returns to farmers but also enhance the long term sustainability of the environment removing carbon from the air and improving soil quality for future farming.

It's a win-win situation which will help underpin our country communities and at the same time help alleviate the looming issues associated with climate change.

Mr Windsor says that a lot of good work has already been undertaken into carbon storage in soil.

"A lot of research has been and is currently being done on soil's role in carbon storage.

People like Dr Christine Jones from the University of New England have shown very positive outcomes and I would encourage the Government not to try to reinvent the wheel in this study but to look closely at the existing knowledge and encourage its adoption by farmers as a matter of urgency.

Climate change is upon us now and we must act sooner rather than later," Mr Windsor said.

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