



Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW

Kevin Humphries MP
Minister Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLARITY OVER CARBON FARMING IN WESTERN NSW

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner said today that Western NSW leaseholders will have the same opportunity as freehold landowners to apply for carbon farming offsets from the Commonwealth Government.

The Western Lands Division makes up 42 per cent of the area of NSW, the vast majority of which (30 million hectares) is under perpetual leasehold.

“The NSW Government has received numerous enquiries from Western Lands Lessees about carbon sequestration proposals, but for some time there has been uncertainty over who owns the carbon on leased land,” Mr Stoner said.

“I am pleased to confirm that Western lands lessees have exclusive rights to the carbon on their leased land.

“This means Western Lands Leaseholders will not be disadvantaged in participating in carbon farming initiatives compared to freehold landowners in other parts of the state.

“Lessees can now submit applications to the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator under the Carbon Farming Initiative in the same way as owners of freehold land. The Crown is not required to be a project proponent for any eligible offset project.

“Western Lands Lessees, as project proponents, hold the right to carry out the project and the obligations for the monitoring and maintenance requirements.

“This has the potential to open up a new revenue stream for farmers in Western NSW.

“As part of the application process, endorsement from the Crown Lands Minister is required, as the state holds an eligible interest in the land.

“To streamline this process a Deed of Agreement is being developed by the Government.”

The Minister for Western NSW Kevin Humphries said he was pleased there was greater clarity over Western Division carbon farming proposals.

“This Government is committed to providing certainty to NSW businesses with regards to investment decisions,” Mr Humphries said.

“Carbon farming is an investment opportunity for western lands lessees with the potential to deliver environmental benefits as well.

“This is about government paving the way and reducing red tape for business in rural NSW to continue to grow.”

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