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Forestry and land use

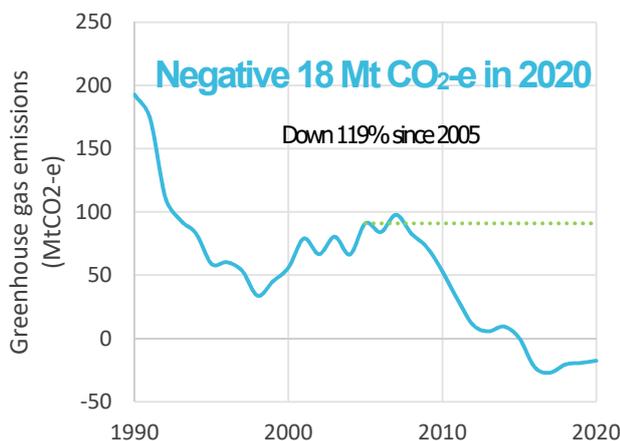
Forestry and land use have stored more carbon dioxide than they have released since 2016.

The land was a net store of 17.7 Mt CO₂-e in 2020. This is roughly equivalent to a fifth of all transport emissions in Australia.

Emissions from land use and forestry have declined over time, due to reductions in land clearing and native forest harvest and increases in regrowth.

Trees and other plants remove carbon dioxide from the air as they grow and store it as wood and biomass.

Australia's land use emissions



We can reduce land use emissions by:

Storing more biomass in the landscape through:

- reducing land clearing
- increasing vegetation and new plantations
- improving soil management
- lowering emissions from savanna burning through cooler, early-season burns.

Using the land to offset emissions

The Emissions Reduction Fund issues carbon credits for emissions avoided or carbon stored. These credits can be used to offset emissions from industry.

The CSIRO in its [Australian National Outlook 2019](#) has found that Australia could store hundreds of millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide in trees and soil. The Technology Investment Roadmap's first Low Emissions Technology Statement identified soil carbon (and the measurement thereof) as a priority technology to help reduce emissions.

In a [separate study](#) looking at climate risks, the CSIRO also found the physical impacts of climate change such as drought, heat stress and increased aridity are risks to carbon stored in soils and vegetation. These risks need to be monitored and managed.

Emissions from bushfires

There are special provisions that apply to how emissions from major natural disturbances, such as the 2019-20 bushfires, are included in Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

While the forests affected by these fires released significant amounts of carbon dioxide, they are expected to re-grow over time and the Government will monitor this future recovery.

See our reports [Prospering in a low-emissions world](#), our [2020 Review of the Emissions Reduction Fund](#) and the CSIRO's [Technical review of physical risks to carbon sequestration under the Emissions Reduction Fund](#) for more information.