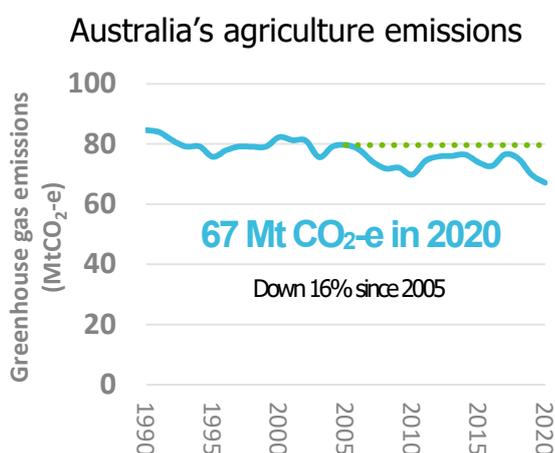




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Agriculture

Agriculture was responsible for 13% of Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Emissions change slightly year-to-year mostly due to changes in climatic conditions that affect livestock numbers.



The main sources of emissions from agriculture are livestock (methane) and fertiliser use (nitrous oxide). Emissions and storage from soil carbon (counted in land use) and on farm energy use are not counted as part of agricultural emissions.

We can reduce agriculture emissions by:

improving the production efficiency of agriculture, for example,

- improved feed quality for livestock
- improved fertiliser use efficiency for cropping.

Climate change impacts^{1 2}

- Climate change is a significant risk to agriculture and is causing productivity declines.
- Changes in climate since 2000 have reduced average broadacre farm profits by 22%.
- Beef farms have seen a 5% decline in profits.

Building climate resilience can help sustain the profitability of Australian agriculture.

Australian Government policies

The Future Drought Fund will provide \$100 million a year from 2020 to help build drought resilience in farm businesses and communities.

The first Low Emissions Technology Statement listed livestock feed technologies as an emerging technology with potential for strong emissions reductions.

The Emissions Reduction Fund rewards farmers for reducing emissions.

See our reports [Prospering in a low emissions world](#), and the [2020 Review of the Emissions Reduction Fund](#).

1 McRobert, K. Admassu, S. Fox, T. and Heath, R. 2019, *Change in the air: defining the need for an Australian agricultural climate change strategy*, Australian Farm Institute, June.
2 Hughes, N., Galeano, D., Hattfield-Dodds, S 2019, *The effects of drought and climate variability on Australian farms*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra, December. https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/EffectsOfDroughtAndClimateVariabilityOnAustralianFarms_v1.0.0.pdf