



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



# Climate Change Adjustment Program

## Climate Change Action Plan

### Case Managed

#### What is the Climate Change Action Plan

The Climate Change Action Plan is based on the assessment information collected during your Farm Business Analysis and Financial Assessment with your Prescribed Adviser, and must include activities and goals you have identified to assist you to manage the challenges of climate change. This Climate Change Action Plan will include strategies and actions that you have identified to manage potential risks and to monitor changes within your agricultural industry associated with a changing climate. These strategies and actions, together with using the latest climate modelling tools available will assist you to increase your awareness and ability to respond to climate change.

The Climate Change Adjustment Program Action Plan is your next step, after completing the Farm Business Analysis and Financial Assessment, in assisting you to take action to manage the impacts of climate change. This includes the development of options for on-farm strategies and practices that will improve the financial and environmental performance of your farm enterprise.

The development and implementation of this Climate Change Action Plan is compulsory if you wish to access professional advice and training or you are receiving Transitional Income Support. Professional advice and training is available on issues directly related to climate change impacts such as agronomic, climate forecasting, drought recovery, or indirectly related to climate change management such as financial planning, business management, succession planning, legal, family or personal matters.

#### How to complete this form

A Rural Financial Counsellor will assist you to develop your Climate Change Action Plan. The activities that you undertake through funding provided by the Climate Change Adjustment Program must be drawn from the list at question 37 on page 11 of this form. Additionally, you may also identify necessary training to assist you to improve your farm's financial performance, secure alternative sources of income or acquire skills to enable you to seek employment if you choose to exit farming.

You will need to act in accordance with your Action Plan to remain eligible for Transitional Income Support, or the Advice and Training Grant under the Climate Change Adjustment Program.

Complete as much of **PART A** as you can, before your first appointment with your Rural Financial Counsellor.

A copy of the **Climate Change Adjustment Program Farm Business Analysis and Financial Assessment** form (A1720) and the Financial Assessment undertaken by the Prescribed Adviser must be provided to the Rural Financial Counsellor to assist in completing this Climate Change Action Plan.

#### How do I keep track of how I am going with the goals I have identified in my Climate Change Action Plan

It is a requirement of the program that you attend mandatory quarterly reviews with your Rural Financial Counsellor. These reviews will assist you to keep track of your progress against the goals outlined in your Action Plan.

#### Definition of a partner

For Centrelink purposes a person is considered to be **your partner** if you and the person are living together, or usually live together, and are:

- married, **or**
- in a registered relationship (opposite-sex or same-sex), **or**
- in a de facto relationship (opposite-sex or same-sex).

Centrelink considers a person to be in a de facto relationship from the time they commence living with another person as a member of a couple.

Centrelink recognises all couples, opposite-sex and same-sex.

#### For more information

Go to our website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) or call us on **1800 050 585** or visit your local **Centrelink Customer Service Centre**.

To speak to Centrelink in languages other than English, call **13 1202**.

**Note:** Calls from your home phone to Centrelink 13 numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to 1800 numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

**Please keep these Notes (pages 1 to 2) for your information.**

**If you have a hearing or speech impairment**

**TTY service** Freecall™ **1800 810 586**. A TTY phone is required to use this service.

**Interpreters and translations**

If you need an **interpreter** or **translation** of any documents for Centrelink business, we can arrange this for you free of charge.

**Filling in this form**

**Please use black or blue pen.**

Mark boxes like this  with a ✓ or ✗.

Where you see a box like this  ► **Go to 5** skip to the question number shown. You do not need to answer the questions in between.

**What to do with this form**

Complete this form, give a copy to your Rural Financial Counsellor and keep the original for your records.

**Climate models**

Some useful climate modelling tools currently available are listed below. Updated information on other useful tools will be provided on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/australias-farming-future>

Climate models are tools for making climate change projections. While the models still have shortcomings, there has been enormous progress over recent years in our understanding of important climate processes and their representation in climate models. The models provide strong evidence for climate change, but there is still some uncertainty associated with projections of precisely how the climate will change in the future, particularly at regional and local scales where most of the impacts will be felt and at which many management decisions are made.

**Rainfall Reliability Wizard (Bureau of Rural Science)**

A rainfall reliability model is available on the Bureau of Rural Science website. It is not a predictive model but uses historic data from 1900 to 2008 to estimate the likelihood of sequences of rainfall (e.g. the likelihood of exceeding 150mm of rain in winter or 25mm in each month of May to October). The model is easy to operate and is found at <http://adl.brs.gov.au/rainfall/>

Using the wizard, you can test your knowledge and understanding of rainfall in your local area by following these simple steps:

- Step 1** Choose an analysis, for example 'Inter-season reliability – absolute'.
- Step 2** Define your growing season in months, like June to September.
- Step 3** Enter a rainfall amount (mm) that you think is 'average' for the season, using the inter-season absolute function.
- Step 4** You will need to know the location of your farm in order to locate it on the screen. The output map shows the likelihood of equalling or exceeding the number you entered. How close were you?
- Step 5** Enter rainfall amounts (mm) for every month in the season, using the intra-season absolute function. This one is important for growth, as it relates to the evenness of rainfall in the season. How close were you?

**Australia's Future Climate (CSIRO)**

Projections of changes in temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, solar radiation, windspeed and evapotranspiration for the years 2030, 2050 and 2070 are available from <http://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/index.php>

**Trend maps (Bureau of Meteorology)**

These trend maps show the seasonal and annual mean rainfall, temperature, pan evaporation and sea surface temperature for selected regions and time periods.

<http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/change/trendmaps.cgi>

**Privacy and your personal information**

The authority to collect the information in this form is in the Climate Change Adjustment Program guidelines. The information will be used to determine your eligibility for assistance under the Climate Change Adjustment Program.

The information is confidential and is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The information may be given to someone else where Commonwealth law requires or authorises the disclosure. Some or all of the information may also be used to conduct customer research by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or by research organisations on their behalf.

**Please keep these Notes (pages 1 to 2) for your information.**



**What to do:**

- 1 Complete as much of **PART A** as you can, before attending your appointment with the Rural Financial Counsellor.
- 2 In preparation for your appointment with your Rural Financial Counsellor, read through the questions in **PART B** of this form so that you have the necessary information ready to answer the questions during your appointment.
- 3 If possible, you should access the climate models listed on page 2 of the **Notes** to assess the likely impact of climate change on your farm enterprise, which you can discuss with your Rural Financial Counsellor.
- 4 Take this form to the Rural Financial Counsellor and complete **PART B** with them. Remember to take a copy of the **Climate Change Adjustment Program Farm Business Analysis and Financial Assessment** form (A1720) including the completed Financial Assessment template with you.

## PART A – To be completed by the farmer

Farmer details

- 1 Your name  
Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other   
Family name   
First given name   
Second given name
- 2 Your permanent address  
  
  
  
Postcode
- 3 Your postal address (if different to above)  
  
  
Postcode
- 4 Your contact phone number
- 5 Your Customer Reference Number (if known)  
 -  -  -
- 6 Australian Business Number (ABN)  
 -  -  -

Experience and formal education – Farmer

- 7 What is the highest educational qualification you have obtained (e.g. Higher school certificate, trade certificate, degree)?
- 8 List any farm-related training you have undertaken in the past 5 years.
- 9 List any other qualifications, skills or experience you have gained which could be formally recognised.



CLK0A1718 1104





**11** Have your objectives changed as a result of the Financial Assessment, and your understanding of how climate change may affect your business?

No  Go to next question

Yes  Give details of your revised objectives


If you need more space, attach a separate sheet with details.

**12** Based on your Financial Assessment, what profit/loss do you expect for your farm enterprise for the next 2 financial years?


**13** What risks are present which would reduce/increase the profit/loss for the next 2 financial years?


**14** What future outlays are required to ensure a sustainable farm enterprise?


**15** Are you in a financial position to meet these future outlays?

No

Yes

Preferred financial position

**16** Based on your Financial Assessment, what is your preferred financial position to improve your family's financial and environmental sustainability and manage the impacts of climate change?

**Tick ONE box only.**

Remain on the farm and improve the financial and/or environmental performance of the farm enterprise  Go to next question

Re-establish outside farming  Go to 18

Retire  Go to 19

Unsure  Go to 29

**17** Give details about how you plan to improve the financial and/or environmental performance of your farm enterprise


Go to 29

**18** When do you plan to re-establish outside farming?

--

Go to 25

**19** When do you plan to retire? (provide timeframes)


**20** Are other family members involved in the operation of the farm enterprise?

No  Go to 23

Yes  Go to next question

**21** Do you know how the other family members are intending to fund their retirement?

No

Yes

**22** Have your retirement options been discussed with the other family members?

No

Yes





**35** Based on your knowledge of your farm enterprise and the likely impact climate change may have on your farming business, record details of the strategies you will be seeking to implement to help adapt and improve your circumstances for the following situations (higher temperature, less and more variable rainfall, more frequent extreme events).

**Strategy** – could include short and long term adaptive measures such as adopting management practices/new technologies that will be profitable, seeking off-farm income, undertaking training to gain skills, or seek expert advice on diversifying the farm enterprise.

**Action(s)** required to achieve and **timeframe** for implementation of the strategy – could include actions taken now, actions taken on the onset of the situation, recovery action or development of an emergency response plan.

See question 37 on page 11 for types of advice and training that can be accessed and consider the list against actions.

**Gauging success** means how you can show what you have done.

**SITUATION 1 – Higher temperatures**

Strategy	Action(s) and timeframe	Gauging success
<i>Example:</i> considering shading and shelter opportunities, different timing of sowing, update bushfire preparedness, providing plenty of drinking water, consider introducing crop and livestock species from areas that are currently warmer or drier than your own, adopt minimal or zero tillage.	<i>Example:</i> seeking advice from professionals or your catchment management authority on planting shade trees, assessing your financial situation to determine what you can afford in the short and long term, undertaking a course in weather monitoring.	<i>Example:</i> successful completion of a course, developing contingency plans, new financial arrangements.
<b>1</b>          Funding capacity:	          Date implemented by:	          
<b>2</b>          Funding capacity:	          Date implemented by:	          
<b>3</b>          Funding capacity:	          Date implemented by:	          

If you need more space, attach a separate sheet with details.

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLOR USE ONLY – Comments on relevance and achievability of actions:







**37** Mark the activities that will assist in achieving your objectives:

**Professional Advice provided by a qualified person**

• **Directly related** to climate change management:

- Climate change impacts and risk information
- Climate risk management planning
- Climate forecasting
- Carbon emissions mitigation
- Drought recovery
- Water management/efficiency, including irrigation strategy
- Other(s) (give details below)


• **Indirectly related** to climate change management:

- Farm technical advice, including agronomic, farm analysis, diversification options
- Animal health
- Financial
- Business management
- Budgeting
- Taxation implications
- Legal, including succession planning and business structure options
- Personal advice
- Other(s) (give details below)


*Continued*

**Training provided by a Registered Training Organisation**

• **Directly related** to climate change management:

- Climate or weather forecasting, including weather monitoring and recording for local property (for strategic planning)
- Climate risk assessment, planning and management
- Sustainable management, including beneficial/regenerative plants (to address salinity, erosion, etc), peripheral plantings (reducing wind factors, creating shade, increasing water retention, soil quality, etc)
- Farm water plan, including reduced irrigation strategies/management, water laws, water trading (pros/cons)
- Training under Australia's Farming Future
- Soil sciences (nutrient levels/measuring water in subsoil, etc)
- Other(s) (give details below)


• **Indirectly related** to climate change management:

- Computer skills, including how to understand weather forecasting
- Chemical management – chemicals which can and cannot be mixed to reduce emissions
- Recognition of prior learning
- Agricultural related (e.g. agronomy, land management, animal husbandry, weed management)
- Business skills
- Support groups, including importance of sharing knowledge with other farmers in the community
- Skills to improve financial situation or off-farm employment
- Other(s) (give details below)


**Purchase of software**

- Business related computer software linked to climate change



Quarterly reviews

**40 Please read this before answering the question.**

Following the development of this Climate Change Action Plan, you must attend mandatory quarterly review sessions with the Rural Financial Counsellor. The Rural Financial Counsellor must arrange appointments following 3, 6 and 9 months on the program.

List of agreed dates for quarterly reviews of progress of this Climate Change Action Plan:

1st review (i.e. 3 month)

2nd review (i.e. 6 month)

3rd review (i.e. 9 month)

Subsequent review(s)



**The Rural Financial Counsellor must sign their statement at question 42.**

Rural Financial Counsellor statement

**42 Statement**

**I declare that:**

- the information in this Climate Change Action Plan is an accurate reflection of the information provided to me by the farmer.
- the information supplied in this Climate Change Action Plan is a fair and accurate report of my understanding of the farmer's preferred activities.
- the referrals provided are within the purpose of the Climate Change Adjustment Program Advice and Training Grant.

Rural Financial Counsellor signature

Date

Farmer statement and consent

**41 Statement**

**I declare that:**

- I will implement this Climate Change Action Plan to the best of my abilities and undertake quarterly reviews of progress with a Rural Financial Counsellor.
- the information I provided in this form is complete and correct.
- I am aware of the range of advice and training available to me under the Climate Change Adjustment Program.

**I understand that:**

- giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.
- I must act in accordance with this Climate Change Action Plan to ensure I receive the correct entitlement.

**I consent to:**

- the disclosure of information I have provided on this form to appropriate referral organisations for assistance with my Climate Change Action Plan.

No  Yes

Farmer's signature

Date

Partner's signature

Date