

# Ian Macdonald

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Energy  
Minister for Mineral Resources  
Minister for State Development



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## **NSW Government helps farmers calculate carbon emissions**

Farmers throughout NSW and Australia can now assess the carbon emissions from their individual operations through a new online calculator, Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said today.

The FarmGAS calculator was launched this week by the Australian Farm Institute.

“This is a great initiative and it will be a very handy tool for farmers to check their greenhouse gas emissions,” Mr Macdonald said.

“Farmers are great at adapting to new technology and I am sure they will embrace this free service to evaluate their farms.

“To use the calculator, farmers simply need to provide details such as the number and weight of their cattle or sheep, the amount and type of pasture, and their cropping operations.

“They will then receive information on the level of greenhouse gas emissions for their farm.

“They can play around with different combinations of farm enterprises to assess the carbon implications and evaluate the potential benefits and costs of mitigating their emissions.

“The NSW Government through Industry and Investment NSW has helped develop this calculator by contributing its expertise in climate risk management.

“The expertise of our economists in developing the FarmGAS calculator is a great example of the contribution of the State Government to equip farmers with the tools to tackle climate variability,” Mr Macdonald said.

“The NSW Government is a world-class leader in combating climate variability and we recognise that our primary industries and rural communities are a key part of the solution.

“I recently announced a \$7 million phase of expansion and consolidation at the National Centre for Rural Greenhouse Gas Research, which is a co-operative joint venture between NSW Department of Industry and Investment and the University of New England.

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“Scientists at the centre focus on reducing greenhouse emissions from agriculture, sequestering carbon in soils, forests and timber products, and developing next generation biofuels - providing practical management solutions to farmers and industries.”

FarmGas is funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under the National Agriculture and Climate Change Action Plan: Implementation Program.

Mr Macdonald said the estimates of farm greenhouse gas emissions used in the FarmGas calculator are consistent with those in the National Greenhouse Gas Accounts, which are produced by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change.

The FarmGAS calculator is available free online, through the Australian Farm Institute's website: [www.farminstitute.org.au](http://www.farminstitute.org.au)