

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Sustainable Farming in Australia: Market Instruments for Improved Land Management

Description:

This project investigates how Australian farming industries are responding to demands for more sustainable production practices.

Investigators/Researchers:

Associate Professor Vaughan Higgins (ILWS);
Professor Chris Cocklin (James Cook University);
Dr Jacqui Dibden (Monash University); Dr Clive Potter (Imperial College London)

Funding: Australian Research Council Discovery Projects (2010-12)

Objectives:

Given the current competitive and environmental pressures on farmers, the study will contribute important theoretical and practical insights to the design of policies for sustainable rural futures. Results of the study will be communicated widely to academic, government and industry audiences.

Methods:

Through the analysis of Australian and international policy documents, as well as detailed case studies of three industries, the research examines the implementation of market-based strategies, which provide incentives to farmers in managing the competing demands of economic viability and sustainable production.



Publications:

Higgins, V., Dibden, J. and Cocklin, C. (in press) 'Market Instruments and the Neoliberalisation of Land Management in Rural Australia', *Geoforum*.

Higgins, V., Dibden, J. and Cocklin, C. (2010) 'Adapting Standards: The Case of Environmental Management Systems in Australia', in V. Higgins and W. Larner (eds), *Calculating the Social: Standards and the Reconfiguration of Governing*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan: 167-184.

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