

# Ag & Vet Weekly



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*All the news on ASX-listed agriculture and veterinary companies*

## Federal Government Signs Methane Pledge; NFF Support

### Federal \$615k For Terragen, Victoria Mylo Methane Study

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government says it has signed the voluntary Global Methane Pledge to reduce emissions across energy, resources, agriculture and waste sectors.

A media release from the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen said the Pledge was “a voluntary commitment with 122 signatories including the US, UK and the European Union working collectively to reduce global methane emissions across all sectors by at least 30 percent below 2020 levels by 2030”.

The media release said that methane was a highly potent greenhouse gas absorbing heat 84 times faster than carbon dioxide over 20 years.

The Federal Government said that the signatories had committed “to taking a range of domestic actions such as standards for reducing emissions in the energy and waste sectors and seeking abatement opportunities in the agricultural sector through technology and partnerships with farmers”.

Ag & Vet Weekly has previously reported on a trial partnership between the Triabunna, Tasmania-based Sea Forest, the Kenmore, Queensland-based Bovine Dynamics and the Jondaryan, Queensland-based Stockyard Kerwee Feedlot to examine the benefits of *Asparagopsis taxiformis*, a red seaweed native to Australia, as a potent methane-reducing product (AVW: Feb 18, 2022).

Sea Forest said at that time it was undertaking trials with Australian Agricultural Co and Fonterra and working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, as well as the retail sector.

This week Mr Bowen said the Pledge promoted an aspirational global target for countries to work together to reduce global methane emissions.

"The Australian Government will continue to partner with industry to decarbonise the economy and pursue emissions reduction initiatives across energy and waste sectors including capturing waste methane to generate electricity," Mr Bowen said.

"By joining the Pledge, Australia will join the rest of the world's major agricultural commodity exporters including the United States, Brazil, and Indonesia in identifying opportunities to reduce emissions in this hard-to-abate sector," Mr Bowen said.

The Federal Government said it would provide "up to \$3 billion from the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund to support investment in, for example, low emissions technologies and component manufacturing and agricultural methane reduction".

The Government said that under the Powering Australia plan, it had committed \$8 million for the seaweed industry to support the commercialization of the low-emissions livestock feed supplement *Asparagopsis* and the second stage of the Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock program would provide \$5 million to develop technologies to deliver low emission feed supplements to grazing animals and determine their technical viability and commercial potential.

The media release said that the Pledge did not require Australia to focus solely on agriculture, or reduce agricultural production or livestock numbers.

National Farmers Federation president Fiona Simson said that "signing the pledge signals Australia's voluntary commitment to participation in global action on methane emissions".

"For agriculture it will reinforce our demonstrated commitment to sustainability and ongoing access key markets as an export orientated sector," Ms Simson said.

"Farmers are already leading the charge on climate action in Australia and have earned a seat at the table and the strong assurances and partnership provided by government mean the pledge will not negatively impact on farmers or the agriculture sector," Ms Simson said.

The Federal Government said that the Pledge was based on data from the United Nations Environment Programme Global Methane Assessment, which highlighted "the critical role that cutting methane emissions plays in the slowing the rate of global warming".

## TERRAGEN, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, VICTORIA GOVERNMENT

Terragen says a \$615,000 grant from the Federal Government Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock program will support a study of its Mylo feed supplement.

In April, Terragen said that a 40-day study of its Mylo microbial feed supplement, conducted at the Victoria Government's Ellinbank Smartfarm in Gippsland, showed that 10mL a day of Mylo produced a 7.5 percent difference in methane emissions compared to control cows and a 21 percent greater weight gain (AVW: Apr 22, 2022).

Today, the company said that in partnership with the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, it would undertake further research of Mylo, using higher doses to potentially increase its methane reducing properties.

Terragen managing-director Jim Cooper told Ag & Vet Weekly that the Federal Government program provided a total of \$5 million under the Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock program, with \$615,000 for the study in partnership with the Victoria Government's Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions.

Mr Cooper said that Terragen would contribute a further \$111,000 to support the study.

Terragen was untraded at 10.5 cents.