Opportunities and challenges for agriculture in a future low carbon world

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5 - 6pm
Geology Lecture Theatre (G21, Ground Floor)
Fairway Entrance 1: Car parks 18, 19 and 20

Western Australia’s agricultural sector is already experiencing some of the unavoidable impacts of climate change. Forecasts for climate change indicate significant implications for productivity through increased average temperatures, changed rainfall patterns, increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and increased climate variability. The economics of agriculture in Western Australia is also expected to change over the next decade, providing opportunities for revenue diversification.

The policy environment around agricultural practice will change significantly in the coming decades. The introduction of an emissions trading scheme has major implications for the agricultural sector. Future policy options regarding carbon offsets, sinks and biodiversity adaptation have the capacity for wide-ranging transformation of agricultural systems.

This lecture will explore the constraints, challenges, and opportunities for agriculture in the coming low carbon future. The barriers to opportunities and how they can be overcome will also be discussed, along with policy implications, new skills and capabilities, as well as, research and development implications.

Mr Steve Waller is currently Director of the Office of Climate Change in the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation. He joined the Department at the beginning of 2007, coming from a 25 year career in environmental management within the resources extraction sector. He has worked as a full-time climate change and greenhouse professional since 1997, most recently as Greenhouse Opportunity Manager with Woodside Energy Limited in Perth, Western Australia. Mr Waller has contributed to many national and international forums across a whole range of climate change-related issues, including renewable and bio-energy, offsets and emissions trading, greenhouse emission monitoring and verification, the management and economics of greenhouse gas abatement. He has participated in the Partnerships Committee of the Commonwealth Government’s Greenhouse Challenge Program, the International Petroleum Industries Environment and Conservation Committee and the International Emissions Trading Association as well as a plethora of industry representative bodies. Mr Waller holds degrees in Biological and Chemical Sciences and a MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management.