

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Tuesday, 13 August 2019

Media are welcome to attend. Interviews can be prearranged for Tuesday, 13 August
Embargoed media releases will be available [here](#) and the full program is [online](#).

RAISING THE STEAKS: WORKING TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR THE RED MEAT INDUSTRY

Significant efforts are underway for the red meat industry to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and even become carbon neutral, and there are a number of lessons that Australia can share with the world.

A range of innovative solutions for the red meat industry to reduce GHG emissions will be the focus of an address by Dr Di Mayberry, Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO at the 2019 Crawford Fund annual conference, titled *Weathering the 'Perfect Storm': Addressing the Agriculture, Energy, Water, Climate Change Nexus*. She will be returning to the conference having been a former conference scholar and will make her address in Parliament House, Canberra on 13 August, with other international and Australian specialists discussing strategies needed to provide water, energy and food in a sustainable and equitable way in the face of climate change impacts.

"The red meat sector makes an important contribution to Australia's economy, but is also a contributor to national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The main sources of emissions are from forest land converted to grassland, and enteric methane - a by-product of livestock's digestive process which is expelled by the animal through burping," said Dr Mayberry, who has worked on sheep, beef and dairy production systems in Australia, Indonesia, China, Myanmar, India and Tanzania.

Greenhouse gas emissions from red meat production in Australia have decreased since 2005, and the industry has recently committed to further reductions in emissions. Dr Mayberry will highlight a range of innovations, particularly around animal management and reducing enteric methane, which can be applied in Australia and overseas.

"As the custodians of almost half of Australian land, there are also opportunities for grazing livestock industries to be leaders in carbon sequestration."

"While possible, mitigation and sequestration activities come at a cost, and require investment and policy support from private and government bodies. This needs to be supported by a willingness of consumers, both in Australia and export markets, to pay a higher price for low-carbon products," she explained.

Dr Mayberry will present an update on work on carbon neutral pathways and highlight some of the lessons from Australia that can be applied to developing countries.

