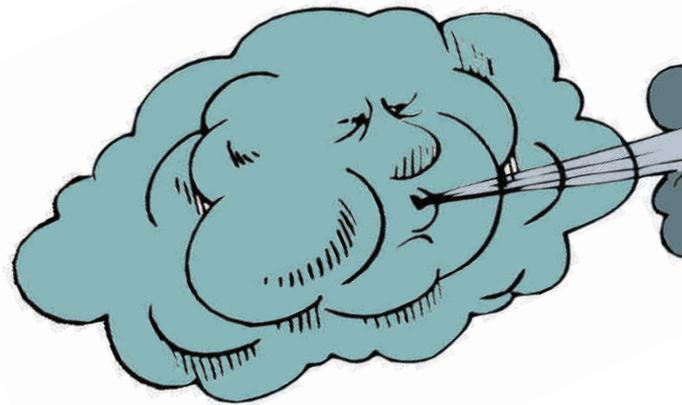
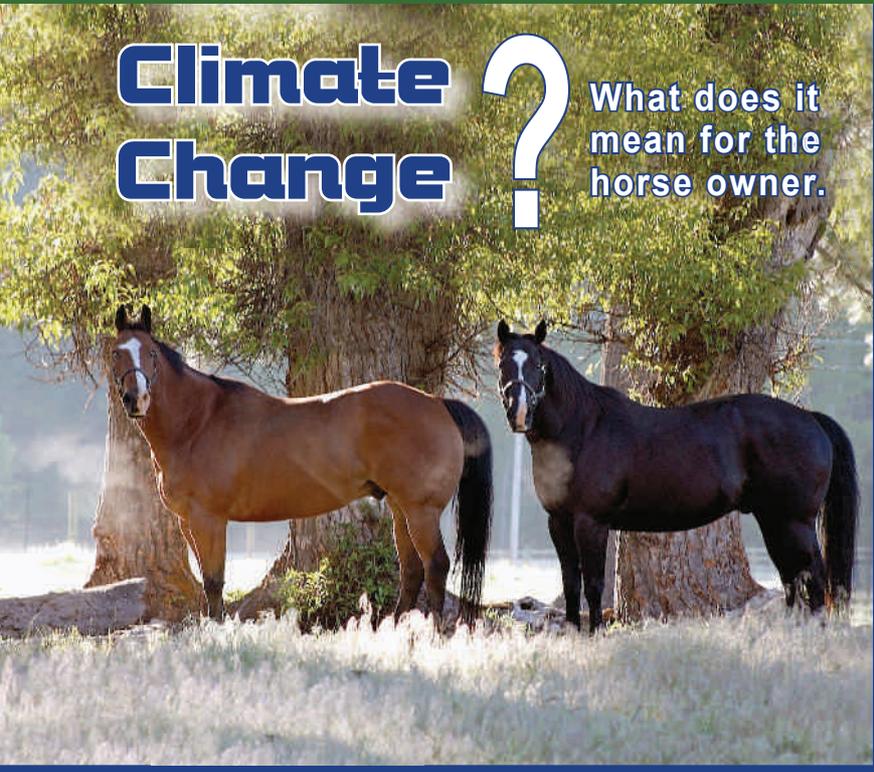




# Climate Change ?

What does it mean for the horse owner.



emissions. That's more than our transport system! Other than land use change and energy use, the main sources of emissions within the Australian agriculture sector are:

- Methane produced by enteric (intestinal) fermentation (mostly in ruminants ie cattle, sheep etc) and emissions from manure management;
- The release of nitrous oxide from soils (especially following the application of nitrogenous fertilisers); and
- Prescribed burning of grassy plains in tropical and subtropical regions (savannas).

*The scientific community accepts that human-induced climate change is a reality. This issue poses significant challenges for all of us to tackle, both in reducing our contribution to the problem through our emissions but also in adapting to the climate impacts that are now unavoidably ahead of us.*

*This is most relevant to those of us who manage land, either for farming or recreational pursuits such as the riding and breeding of horses.*

This climate change challenge means that action is no longer just the realm of extreme 'greenies' doing the right thing environmentally. It makes sense for all of us to take action to protect ourselves from increasing exposure to physical and financial risks such as impacts on infrastructure, insurance, animal welfare, and the costs of farm inputs and waste disposal.

Emissions from agriculture (including land use change and energy use), account for up to 17% of Australia's overall greenhouse gas

In 2009, methane production in livestock (mostly cattle and sheep) and manure management accounted for 69.3% of agricultural emissions. It is important to note that Australia's national greenhouse accounting does not currently capture individual actions, particularly on farms. However, that does not mean that we should not take action, to protect and prepare our animals, our community and ourselves.

When we seek to conduct an enterprise in an 'ecologically responsible' manner, or manage the land 'sustainably,' what do we hope to achieve? In short – the aim can be summarised in the following:

- Reduce the emission of greenhouse gases
- Reduce the production of waste and use resources efficiently
- Prepare ourselves for climate change impacts such as prolonged drought and extreme weather event
- Contribute to the preservation of the natural environment for the benefit of the broader community, such as preserving and restoring biodiversity, clean waterways and soil conservation.

## About the Authors

Annemaree Docking and Linda Martin-Chew run **Plan-It RURAL**.

Annemaree is an agricultural scientist, carbon manager and permaculture designer specialising in environmentally sustainable farm systems incorporating 30 years horse experience including breeding, riding and training on both a personal and professional level.

Linda is a land use planner with a longstanding involvement in sustainable land management. She has owned and ridden horses for over thirty years and bred Hanoverians for ten years.

**CONTACT:** [www.planitrural.com.au](http://www.planitrural.com.au)  
e: [info@planitrural.com.au](mailto:info@planitrural.com.au) fb: [@planitrural](https://www.facebook.com/planitrural)



Rural planning and regulatory consultants

Whole farm and land use planning

Permaculture system design

Tree change coaches



plan-it rural

w: [planitrural.com.au](http://planitrural.com.au)  
e: [info@planitrural.com.au](mailto:info@planitrural.com.au)  
fb: [@planitrural](https://www.facebook.com/planitrural)

*This climate change challenge means that action is no longer just the realm of extreme 'greenies' doing the right thing environmentally.*

The question of how to take action is not an easy one for horse owners and equine property managers to answer. All farming and equine properties are complex systems with many competing pressures. Those who have achieved this goal in urban and rural environments have done so through innovation, engagement with the subject, and with thoughtful, well-researched property planning and design.

Managing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change in a productive farm setting means making changes in a number of areas. For horse properties, the key areas for action can be grouped under the following:

- Methane production and manure management
- Soil management to retain carbon, soil structure and increase productivity
- Carbon stocks, vegetation sinks and biodiversity management
- Efficiency in farm operations and reducing dependency on external inputs



Photo: Annemaree's farm, Willowmavin, Victoria

*A well-designed property will protect your wet land and rivers, have grazing, well fenced laneways for paddock access and easy-to-access facilities needed for horse management.*

- Choosing, and maintaining, farm equipment
- Property design to tie all these elements together in an effective, functional system.

These topics will be addressed in further articles over the next six issues in Hoofbeats. We will outline management strategies for horse properties that are achievable, affordable, effective and contribute not only to a property that is taking responsible action, but that is a pleasurable place to work and live for both horse and human.



## PRODUCT NEWS

### SOLAR FENCING MADE EASY

#### DESCRIPTION:

**Whiteline  
SOLAR SOLUTIONS**

Electric fencing offers horse owners a practical, flexible and effective means of keeping horses in, and out of, areas as required. Since solar powered products came onto the market it's now even easier to set up what you need for secure paddocking and pasture management.



While there are numerous DIY options, it does pay to seek expert advice regarding what may best suit your needs first, and with installation, something Whiteline Fencing can assist with. Offering products such as solar units, mains, stand offs, insulators, bungy gates, poly tape and rope; complete packages suitable to suit your needs and budget for DIY, or fully installed. From the Nemtek Electric Fence range they offer the Agri 10km solar range of energisers, including a solar panel that is used to charge a battery during the day to power it. Solar panels are usually provided with a separate solar regulator, whereas this has a built-in solar regulator to make it more portable and easier to connect. With an online store, the ability to source products they don't carry in stock, affordable delivery costs and installation in certain areas, they can help with your property's permanent and temporary fencing requirements.

**CONTACT:** [www.whitelinefencing.com.au](http://www.whitelinefencing.com.au) / [www.facebook.com/whitelinefencing](https://www.facebook.com/whitelinefencing).

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT HELP

#### DESCRIPTION: PLAN-IT RURAL PTY LTD

*Whether planning improvements or starting to develop your property from scratch it is always good to seek help from those with experience in land management, design and the intricacies of planning approval through local authorities. It's an added bonus when your advice comes from those who are also passionate about horses. Annemaree and Linda have started a series of features in the Green Horse this issue, covering a range of topics that will benefit property owners.*

**Plan-It Rural** is a consultancy based in central Victoria supporting equine and agricultural businesses to manage planning and regulatory frameworks. The business unites Annemaree Docking and Linda Martin-Chew, a like-minded team with a combined forty years of industry experience and a shared passion for horses, farming, and ethical, sustainable rural development.

Their services include property design, farm management advice, planning permit applications, project management, tree change coaching, and property pre-purchase inspections.

**CONTACT:** Facebook or website: [www.planitrural.com.au](http://www.planitrural.com.au)  
Have a project? Drop them a line at [info@planitrural.com.au](mailto:info@planitrural.com.au)

