

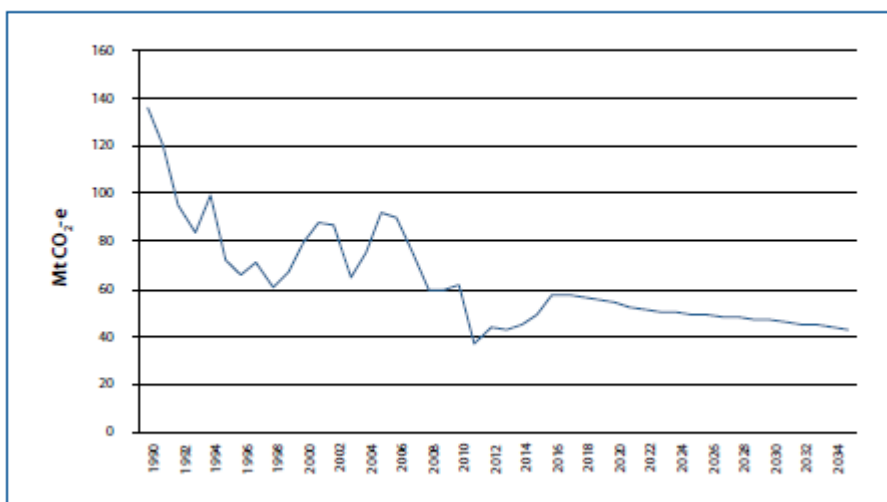
**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 96
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 2
Programme: Climate Change and Renewable Energy (CCARE)
Topic: Projections - land clearing and deforestation
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 24 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Waters asked:

1. As I understand it, land clearing has increased massively since 2012 when the former Queensland State government scrapped much of its land clearing laws – it rose from 78,000 ha in 2009-10 to 296,000 ha in 2014-15 – and yet your graph shows a gentle decline nationally – do you view the recent results as a temporary blip?
2. Do your results show a different picture for Queensland?

Figure 9 Forest conversion net emissions, Mt CO₂-e, Australia, 1990-2035



Source for projections - <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/f4bdfc0e-9a05-4c0b-bb04-e628ba4b12fd/files/lulucf-emissions-projections-2014-15.pdf>

General page for projections: <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2014-15>

Answer:

1. The results of the LULUCF projections 2014-15 do identify an increase in emissions from forest conversion to other land uses (land clearing) from 2011 through 2015 to 2017, before declining to 2020 and 2030. As explained under the key assumptions and activity data for the LULUCF projections 2014-15, these results reflect not only the recent regulatory reforms in Queensland but also underlying trends in land clearing due to economic factors including the farmers' terms of trade. Additionally, greenhouse gas emissions per hectare cleared tends to decline over the long term, as re-clearing of

immature, lower-biomass regrowth increases as a proportion of total clearing activity. This is also expected to contribute to the declining emissions trend.

2. Australia's emissions projections are not prepared at the state level.