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# Forestry and land use

Forestry and land use have stored more emissions than they released since 2015.

**The land was a net store of 19.3 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2019. This is roughly equivalent to removing all emissions from trucks and buses in Australia**

Emissions from land use and forestry have declined over time, due to reductions in land clearing and native forest harvest and increases in regrowth.

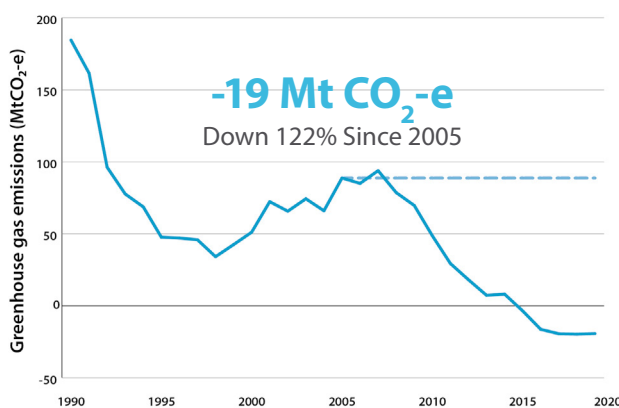
**Trees and other plants remove carbon dioxide from the air as they grow and store it as wood and biomass.**

## Using the land to offset emissions

The Emissions Reduction Fund issues carbon credits for the amount of emissions avoided or carbon stored. These credits can be used to offset emissions from industry through the safeguard mechanism.

The CSIRO has found that Australia has the potential for hundreds of millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions to be stored in trees and soil. In the future, Australia could play a part globally in helping to offset hard-to-abate industrial emissions and create a billion dollar market for this service<sup>1</sup>.

Land use emissions



## We can reduce land use emissions by:

Storing more biomass in the landscape through:

- reducing land clearing
- increasing vegetation and new plantations
- improving soil management.

Lowering emissions from savanna burning through cooler, early-season burns.

**See the Authority's 2017 review of the Emissions Reduction Fund, *Reaping the Rewards* research report and our latest report, *Prospering in a low emissions world*.**

<sup>1</sup> The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) 2019, Australian National Outlook 2019, viewed 19 November 2019, <https://www.csiro.au/en/Showcase/ANO>.