

UN Food Systems Summit – Australia – The Hon David Littleproud, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia

Your excellencies, distinguished guests.

Hello from Darwin, in Northern Australia. We apologise for not being able to be with you today but obviously we live in a complicated world since COVID has struck.

Australia's commitment to this forum and to sustainable food production has not wavered. In fact the Australian Government continues to invest, particularly in research and development, and in the new technologies that will help our agricultural production systems become more sustainable.

This is the exciting thing that the Australian Government has seen endure during our last budget – we put out over \$200 million to improve our soil science to understand our soils better. Not just to get better production, but also around measuring carbon abatement and being able to make our global commitments in a real tactile way.

We're also introducing a biodiversity stewardship program whereby we're not just abating carbon through the planting of trees but we're actually being the first country in the world to be able to measure the improvement in biodiversity. Abating carbon through planting trees is a blunt instrument, but by improving and measuring the biodiversity of that land is something that is valuable and no one else in the world has ever been able to do before.

So we're proud to say that these types of technologies, these types of research are what we as a good global citizen, as a global partner, will continue to work with other nations around the world on. To ensure that the sustainable production of our food and our fibre is at the highest levels, and that we share that science to make sure we have a better environment and we have healthier and more sustainable food production systems.

Thanks for having us.