

Pathways Call for Evidence Submission

18 July – 14 August 2026

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NSW Net Zero Commission
New South Wales Government

By email: contact@netzerocommission.nsw.gov.au

28 July 2026

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Call for Evidence on Decarbonisation Pathways for NSW.

CropLife Australia welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the NSW Net Zero Commission's *Call for Evidence on Decarbonisation Pathways for NSW*. We support the Commission's objective of developing practical, evidence-based pathways that enable New South Wales to achieve its emissions reduction targets while maintaining a productive, competitive, and resilient economy.

Last year CropLife Australia commissioned and publicly released at COP30 in Brazil *Climate-smart agriculture: Australian sustainable farming practices enabled by plant science innovation*, an independent technical review examining the role of agricultural innovation in delivering emissions reduction, climate resilience and sustainable productivity outcomes. We commend the report to the Commission as relevant evidence for its consideration of land and agricultural pathways. The report highlights that Australian agriculture has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 20 per cent since 1990 while increasing production by more than 60 per cent,¹ demonstrating the important role innovation plays in reducing emissions intensity. As the commission develops its pathway scenarios, CropLife encourages recognition of four key principles:

Innovation must be central to agricultural decarbonisation.

Advanced crop protection products, improved crop genetics, biotechnology, precision agriculture and digital farming technologies help farmers reduce inputs, improve resource efficiency and maintain productivity.

¹ [CropLife Australia | Climate-smart agriculture: Australian sustainable farming practices enabled by plant science innovation – An independent technical review](#)



Gene-edited and genetically modified crops also have the potential to improve input-use efficiency, enhance tolerance to drought and heat stress, and reduce losses from pests and diseases, thereby contributing to emissions reduction while helping maintain agricultural productivity and food security.

Productivity and emissions reduction are complementary.

Sustainable intensification can lower emissions per unit of food and fibre produced while avoiding pressure for further agricultural expansion.

Policy and regulatory settings should support innovation adoption.

Timely access to new technologies, ongoing investment in agricultural research and development, and science-based regulation are essential to achieving further emissions reductions while maintaining food security and regional economic outcomes.

Adaptation and resilience must accompany emissions reduction.

Climate-smart technologies help farmers manage increasing climate variability, including drought heat, pests and disease pressures.

CropLife also encourages the Commission to consider the economic and environmental consequences of policies that constrain agricultural production rather than improve efficiency. As one of the lowest-emissions-intensity agricultural producers, Australia's greatest opportunities for further emissions reductions lie in innovation-led productivity improvements.

The attached report provides detailed evidence supporting these observations and demonstrates how science-based innovation can simultaneously support emissions reduction, productivity, biodiversity outcomes, water-use efficiency and long-term agricultural resilience. CropLife believes these principles should form a key component of NSW's pathway to net zero.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. CropLife would welcome further engagement as the Commission progresses its pathway development work.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Cossey
Chief Executive Officer