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Soil Carbon Industry Group  
Chairs report to the 2023 Annual General Meeting  
17 October 2023

Thank you, Matthew, for a comprehensive update. And for the vote of thanks. It is indeed a road for the dedicated, none more so than yourself.

I would also like to echo your thanks to Duncan – and to Agriprove for providing his services.

He understands the governance and process which form the backbone of an organisation such as ours and has assisted me in ensuring we are compliant in all areas. While also indeed providing the enthusiasm and perseverance which has resulted in the Soil Carbon Summit proceedings. CFA was happy to provide the platform which enabled this to occur.

To other matters: It is worth reminding ourselves – the ‘effective crediting policy environment’ that we enjoy has been earned through the dedication in both time, effort and funding of many in this room. Beginning in 2005 – 2007.

We continue to have bi-partisan support including from the former Energy Minister – Angus Taylor who was responsible for the National Soil Carbon Innovation Challenge initiative which is now working to drive down measurement costs. The joint press release on 18th November 2023 from Ministers Chris Bowen and Murray Watt announcing the grant recipients was a great relief and step forward to action on climate action. Many SCIG members have forged world leading partnerships through this program. The world is watching. It builds industry confidence to have a government committed to action. Advocating and conducting the research is a significant resource stretch on business flow for SCIG members. I thank members who contribute. For a small organisation we have done well.

I look forward to more outcomes from the innovation challenge becoming public. The Proceedings of the Soil Carbon Summit will provide some early updates.

This hard-won bi partisan support is why I completely agree that our leadership position cannot be taken for granted.

Soil carbon and its ability for multiple positive outcomes is an area that requires its own peak body.

There are many and varied interest groups in the Carbon Markets now. But no other soil carbon group in Australia.

Soil carbon remains a difficult concept for many outside of agriculture to grasp. Not just that it exists, but it’s role in the drawdown of the legacy load of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Part of our role therefore must be to continue to champion the soil’s role in food security, soil security and climate stability.

Furthermore, with the ‘pivoting’ of the Department to the Integrated Farm and Land Management method as the Chubb Review is implemented, we need to be vigilant.

While this method has an air of excitement surrounding it, there are risks:

- Will the 2021 Soil C method be diminished by being part of this 'larger' method.
- Will proposed changed to things like project boundaries – and others – only again add cost to projects. Just when everyone is working to lower costs.
- And many other issues which require detailed and experienced consideration.

Now is no time to believe that the work in supporting a vibrant soil carbon sequestration industry is over.

I suggest we may be discussing such things as we get to our strategy agenda this afternoon.

On an Internationally level, SCIG have been active in the “4 per 1000” initiative.

For context I want to remind members what was agreed under the Framework Convention on Climate Change, The Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century. That’s because the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated that crossing the 1.5°C threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall. To limit global warming to 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline 43% by 2030.

The international “4 per 1000” Initiative aims to demonstrate that agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils, can play a crucial role in food security and climate change.

Launched by France on 1 December 2015 during COP 21, “4 per 1000” consists of federating all voluntary public and private stakeholders (national governments, local and regional governments & authorities, companies, professional organisations, NGOs, research establishments, etc.) within the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Plan (LPAP).

SCIG made the declaration in support of the “4 per 1000” initiative on 2 February 2023. On the 23 March 2023 SCIG’s application to become a partner in the “4 per 1000” initiative was officially approved. I point members to the many varied soil carbon activities around the world of other “4 per 1000” partners.

SCIG’s first contribution has been to advertise the SCIG Soil Carbon Summit through this network. Member success with the 2021 Soil Carbon Method will further highlight Australia through this network as a global exemplar in climate action through soil carbon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louisa Kiely".

Louisa Kiely

Co-chair

Soil Carbon Industry Group.