

SUMMARY OF 2024 SURVEY OF RURAL LANDHOLDERS IN NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA



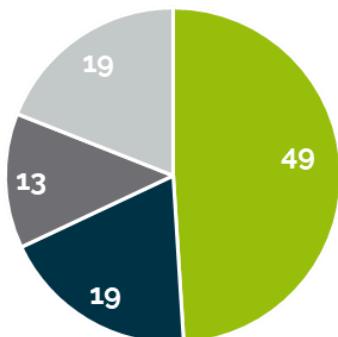
In 2024, over 2000 landholders in North-Central Victoria were randomly selected to take part in a rural landholder social benchmarking survey as a part of a national project, funded by the Soil CRC and North Central CMA. This followed up on a similar survey implemented in 2019. Landholders from across the region returned 389 survey forms. This short summary of results provides an overview of demographics, challenges and aspirations of landholders in North Central Victoria. Full reports located at Soilcrc.com.au.

About Our Respondent Landholders

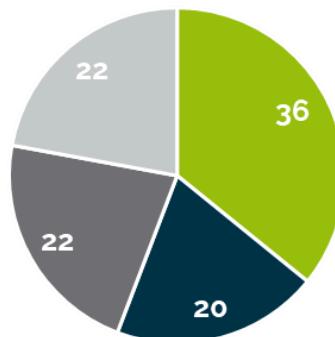


- Full-time Farmers:** 64 years, 93% male, 54 hours worked each week
- Part-time Farmers:** 62 years, 83% male, 24 hours worked each week
- Hobby Farmers:** 63 years, 69 % male, 16 hours worked each week
- Non-farmers:** 71 years, 69% male, 16 hours worked each week

2019%

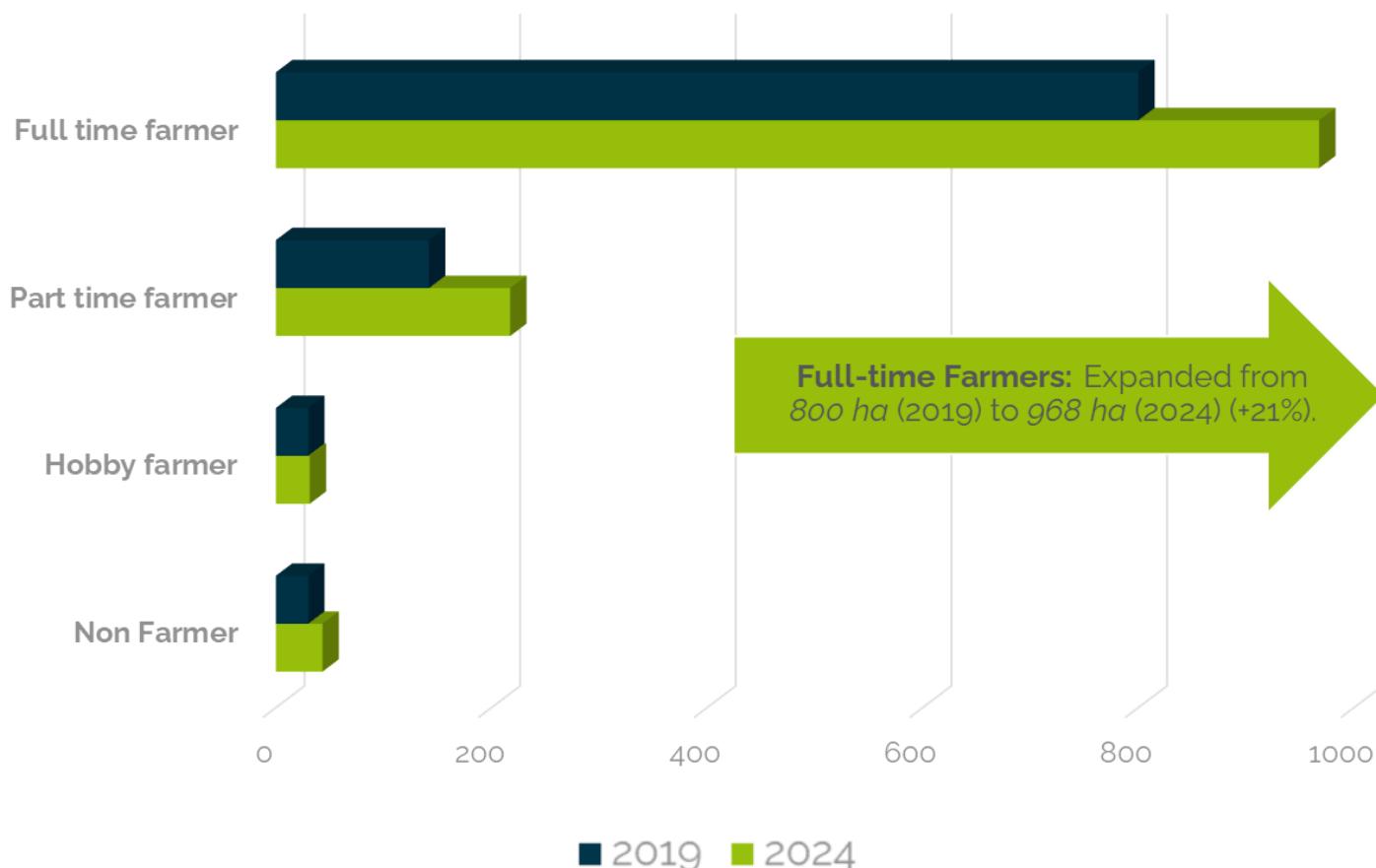


2024%



- Full time farmer
- Part time farmer
- Hobby farmer
- Non Farmer

Average Land Area 2019 - 2024



Key Issues, All Landholders 2019 - 2024

Key Issues 2019

1. Changes in weather patterns 77%
2. Soil erosion (e.g. by wind or water) 73%
3. The impact of pest plants and animals on natives 73%
4. Quality of water in farm dams during drought 72%
5. Risk to life and property from wildfires 70%
6. Crop weed resistance to herbicide 67%

Key Issues 2024

1. Water security 79% #
2. Rising input costs 74% #
3. Impact of pest plants and animals on native spp. 69%
4. Declining soil health and/or soil productivity 68%
5. Impact of weeds/pest spp. including natives 66%
6. Changes in weather patterns 65%

Water security & rising input costs were not included in the 2019 survey

Key Issues By Landholder Type 2024

Full time farmer

- Water security 100%
- Absence of important services/infrastructure 85%
- Declining soil health and/or soil productivity 84%
- Land use change/conflicting land use 80%
- Public support/opposition for agriculture 80%

Part time farmer

- Water security 58%
- Quality of water in farm dams during drought 47%
- The impact of pest plants and/or animals 45%
- Risk to life and property from bushfires 44%
- Changes in weather patterns 44%

Hobby farmer

- Water security 60%
- The impact of pest plants and/or animals 57%
- Risk to life and property from bushfires 56%
- Declining soil health and/or soil productivity 53%
- Quality of water in farm dams during drought 52%

Non farmer

- The impact of pest plants and/or animals 57%
- Risk to life and property from bushfires 57%
- Water security 49%
- Changes in weather patterns 47%
- Loss of native plants and animals in the landscape 41%



Succession-Planning

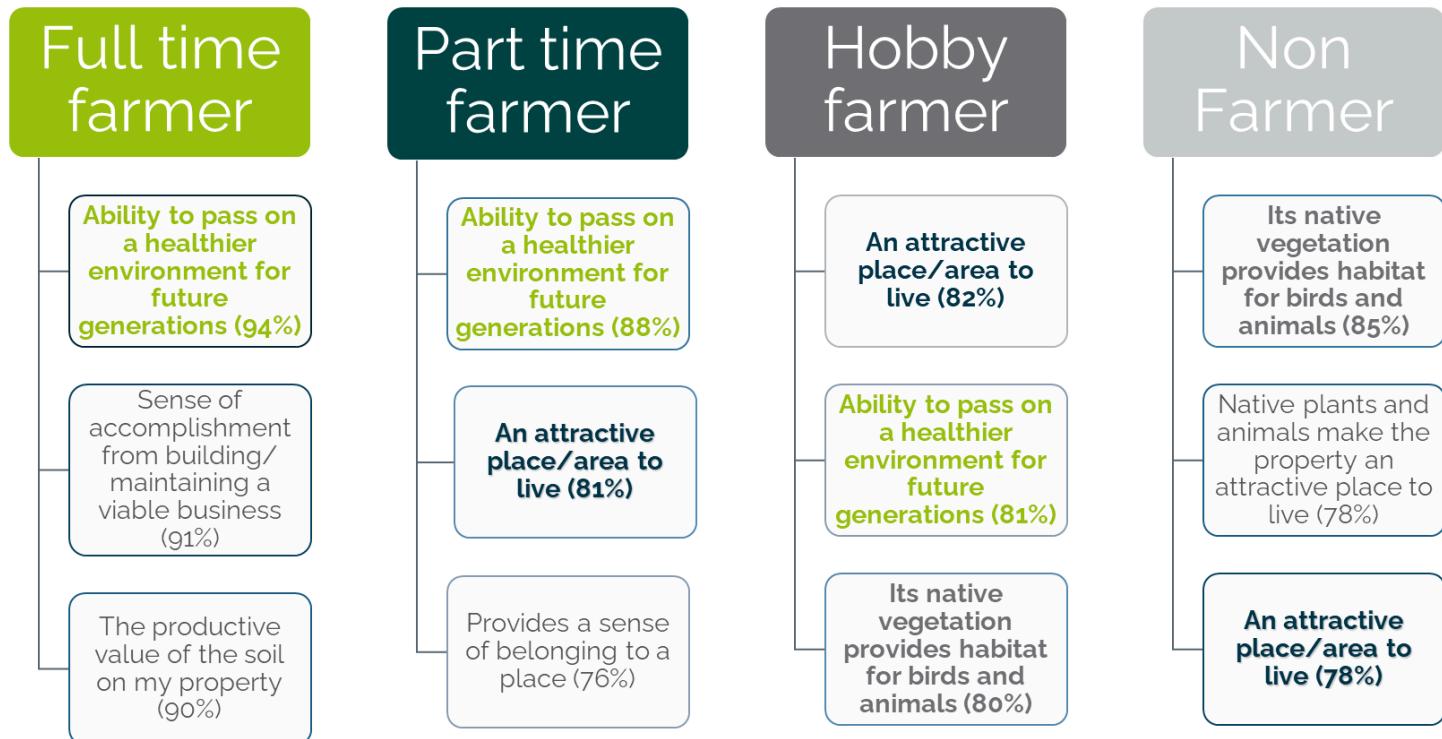
Succession-Planning for Farmers (full and part -time farmers combined)

Ownership of the property will stay within the family
Yes 75%

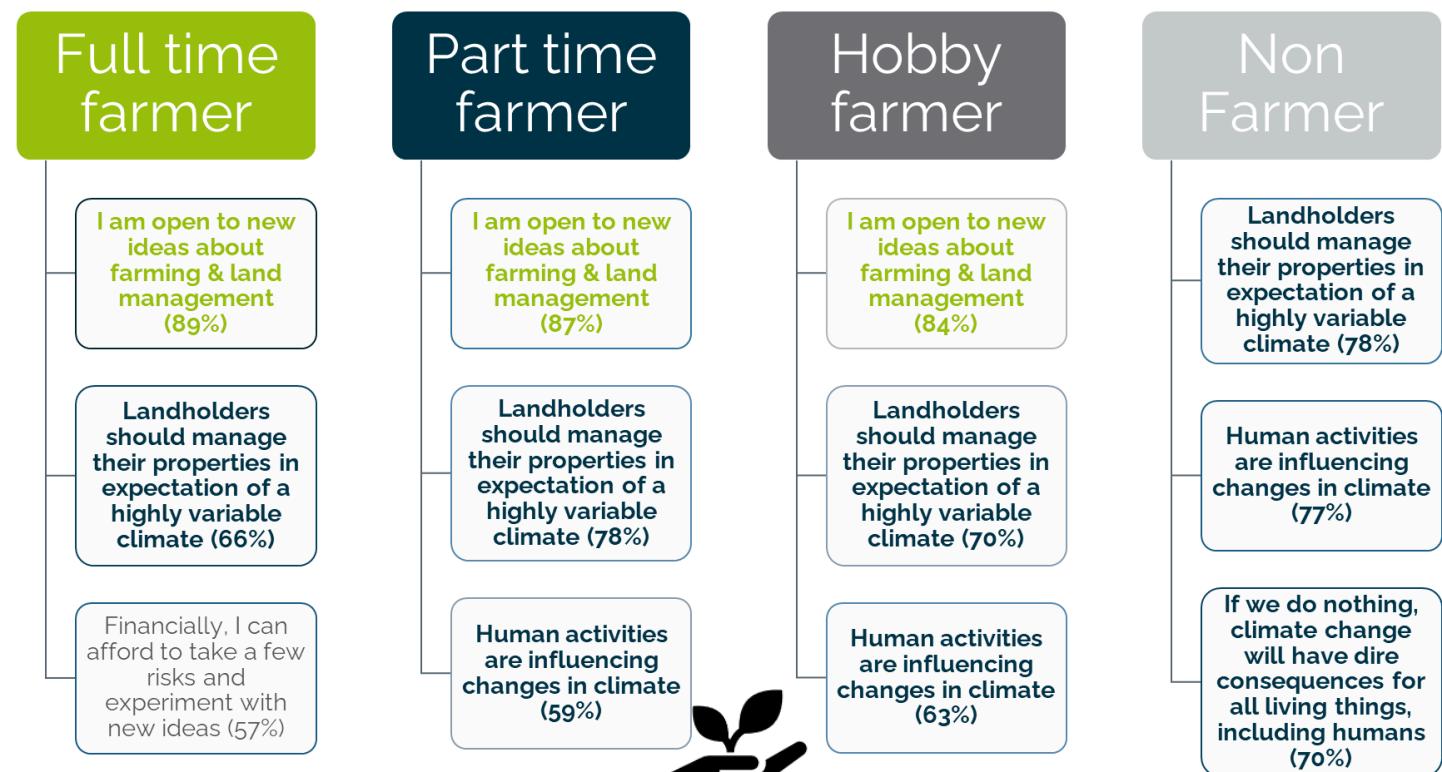
Are there family members interested in taking on your property in the future?
Yes 45%

Has your family agreed to a succession plan?
Early stages 40%
Halfway 9%
Well advanced 18%

Values Landholders Associate with their Properties



Landholder Views About Risk, Trust and Climate



Infographic developed
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