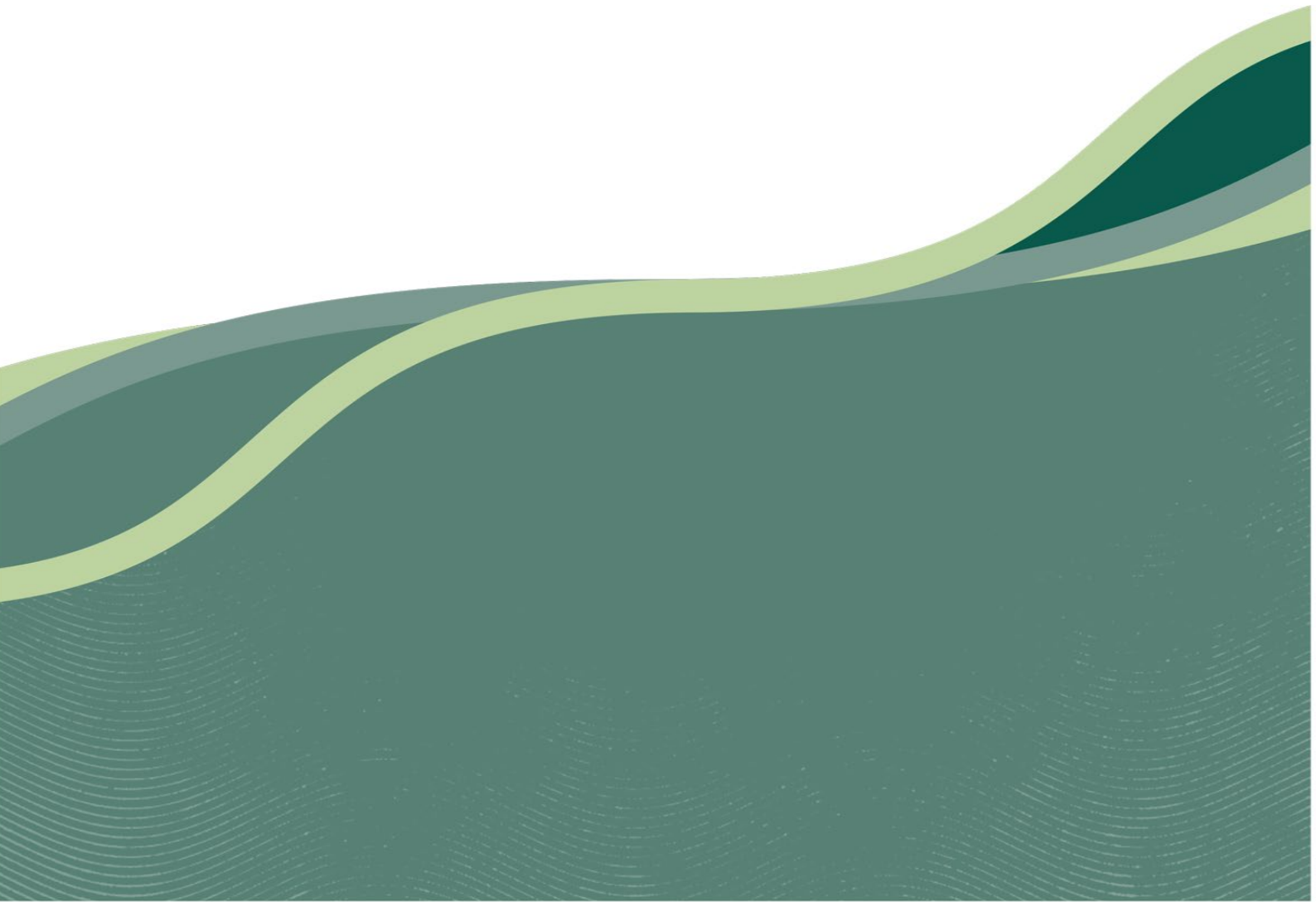




Carbon Farming Plan

Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method 2024



Overview

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) offers this guide to assist landowners develop Carbon Farming Plans.

This guide focuses on the environmental planting carbon farming projects under the ACCU Scheme [Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method 2024](#).

A Carbon Farming Plan is a comprehensive report that details the information needed to make an informed investment decision and register the project with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER). It includes project design, planning, record-keeping and reporting requirements.

As Carbon Farming Plans contain detailed technical information, the expertise of a Carbon Service Provider is required. Other Service Providers can give supplementary advice if required (i.e. legal, environmental, agronomic, forestry, ecological).

There may be opportunities to design an environmental planting project that meets the requirements of the ACCU Scheme and the Australian [Nature Repair Market scheme](#). If there is interest in participating in both, it is important to understand their eligibility requirements and plan accordingly.

A well-prepared plan can help the landowner determine how carbon farming can fit into existing business operations, the costs and returns, and the management, obligations and risks in developing the project. It should consider the interaction between changing land management practices, soil types, climate and other environmental factors, and broader farm system outcomes.

Service Providers work with the landowner to ensure the obligations, risks, and potential rewards of undertaking a project are understood. As these are important, long term investment decisions, the plan needs to be tailored to individual business needs, properties and circumstances.

Landholders should seek professional advice on the technical and regulatory aspects of a carbon farming project, as well as financial, legal and tax advice. DPIRD has compiled a [Service Provider Directory](#) to help find an expert.

Instructions for using this guide

This document provides headings and suggested content for a Carbon Farming Plan.

Other information unique to the project can also be included.

Resources

- CER: [Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method 2024](#)
- DPIRD: [Planning a reforestation project](#) – how to establish a project.
- DPIRD: [Key steps for planning a carbon farming project](#)

Carbon Farming Plan

The information that forms a Carbon Farming Plan is shown below:

Items	Details
Motivations and goals	A description of the business and personal motivations/goals for progressing a carbon farming project
Property overview	Location, soil types, topography, climate
Land use	Current and planned land use and farm production e.g. grains, oil seeds, livestock etc.
Site assessment and mapping	Site assessment and mapping of carbon estimation areas, site plans and configurations for tree plantings (e.g. belt vs block)
Estimated forward abatement	Estimated carbon sequestered over 25 years (modelled in FullCAM or equivalent)
ACCU Scheme method and activities	Eligible method and the property specific activities to be implemented
Budget	Project budget including registration, implementation, long term management, reporting
Cost and revenue forecast	Cost and revenue forecast, profit analysis* +
Co-benefits	Identification of project specific co-benefits
Risk	Project specific risks and mitigation strategies (including permanence plan requirements)
Reporting	Project specific reporting schedule and monitoring
Approvals	Local government development approval requirements (if applicable)
CER registration	Overview of CER registration, reporting and auditing schedule, and permanence requirements
Business planning	Business planning consideration for implementing and managing a carbon farming project e.g., company structure, secession planning, finance.

* An Australian Financial Services License (AFSL) is required

+ Service Providers must also be a signatory to the Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct

Proponent and service provider details

Proponent: *Name of the landowner/s.*

Project name: *Name of the property/ business enterprise and/or project for registration.*

Permanence Period: *25 years or 100 years*

Service Provider(s): *Name, role, business address, phone, email.*

Executive summary

The executive summary is written at the completion of the Plan and provides an overview of the farm business and the project to be undertaken.

The summary should describe the project location and the high-level objectives that you wish to achieve in running a reforestation project, such as:

- *Goals for the project (environmental, business, personal)*
- *Overview of the property (location, current and planned farming activities e.g., broad acre cropping of wheat, cattle, mixed grain and sheep)*
- *Description of the last 5 years land management activities.*
- *Business planning - company structure, succession planning, taxation, finance.*

Property details

Describe the property where the carbon farming project is planned. Details should include:

- *Property address, average winter rainfall zone*
- *Total property area and the project area (in hectares) within the property boundary.*
- *Insert a property map showing property and project boundaries, co-ordinate, and legend. If you do not have access to an existing property map, you can generate one using DPIRD's [Natural Resource Info \(WA\) digital mapping tool](#).*

Spatial analysis

Carbon Estimation Areas

Identifying CEAs according to their inherent capability (better soil = better growth and survival rates) will help determine the most appropriate areas for the plantings and may increase profitability.

- *Include a property map and/or heat maps, and a description of soil types and vegetation system/s identified in the project area (with a legend or key).*
- *Existing maps can be included. There are a range of online mapping tools such as DPIRD's [Natural Resource Info \(WA\) digital mapping tool](#).*

Site assessment

An environmental plantings project involves establishing and maintaining a mix of endemic trees (for carbon), shrubs and understory species (for biodiversity) or mallee Eucalypts.

These are planted on land that has been clear of forest for at least 5 years.

Consider the most appropriate planting configuration (belt or block plantings) to fit with existing practises (e.g., grazing/cropping rotations) to achieve the project outcomes

Desktop analysis: *Include spatial analysis showing data such as:*

- *Rainfall*
- *Soil types*
- *Topography*
- *Locations of nearby remnant vegetation*
- *Analysis of vegetation types*

Species selection and configuration

Species list: *Nominate the proposed endemic species to be planted.*

The selection of plant species should reflect the objectives of the project, changing climate impacts, and other management considerations, i.e. fits with ongoing farm activities, land uses such as roads and infrastructure, and water ways.

Online resources assist to identify locally occurring (endemic) plant species and other ecological assets:

- *Natural Resource Management (NRM) group has this information for its geographic region. To find your local NRM, use this [map](#).*
- *Local nursery suppliers can collect seed and propagate species, as well as supply standard stock - [Revegetation Industry Association of WA](#), [Environmental Consultants Association \(WA\)](#) and [WA Landcare Network](#)*
- *DPIRD's [Co-benefits Information Portal](#)*
- *[Dandjoo](#) is a whole-of-state biodiversity data platform database of the flora of WA, providing scientific information, including descriptions, maps, images and conservation status. It can provide results based on multiple search criteria, including by local government area. This may help with identifying local species for revegetation planning.*
- *The [Native Vegetation Handbook Series](#) is based on local government areas and identifies landscape, soil and vegetation units/systems. It documents locally occurring plant species, listed by vegetation unit.*
- *[Habitat for Nature Conservation](#) includes several links to revegetation documents and case studies.*
- *[Florabase](#) - database of WA flora species including descriptions, maps, images, and conservation status. Results can be filtered by search criteria such as by local government area. Helpful with identifying local species for revegetation planning.*

Estimated forward abatement

Sequestration potential: *Complete a FullCAM (the Full Carbon Accounting Model) report that indicates the carbon sequestration potential of the project over a 25-year project period.*

FullCAM is the tool that generates abatement estimates for ACCU scheme vegetation methods. It can be downloaded for free at <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/full-carbon-accounting-model-fullcam>

Contracting a service provider experienced in FullCAM ensures an accurate estimate that includes the project's trees and debris.

Baseline period land management activities

Land management activities over the previous 5 years: *Outline what the land has been used for in the previous 5 years. The baseline period accounts for the years prior to registration of the project.*

Project activities

Proposed project activities: *Provide detailed technical and operational information on the planned reforestation activities including:*

- *Area (hectares) to be revegetated*
- *Site preparation method*
- *Species to be planted, and proportion of seed to tube stock*
- *Revegetation establishment method (e.g., tube stock, direct seeding, handplanting, combination)*
- *Intended machinery use (e.g., tree planter with/without seeding capability, niche or specialised seeder, handplanting equipment, other)*
- *Proposed weed and pesticide control program*
- *Fencing (type and kilometres)*

Estimated carbon emissions from implementing and managing project activities.

Timing of project activities: *Identify when each of the listed activities are planned.*

Include expected commencement and completion dates e.g., how many years the planting program will be implemented over (i.e. planting may be done over 2 seasons).

Cost benefit analysis

Service providers should base any feasibility advice on:

- *The requirements of the selected method(s)*
- *Individual circumstances*
- *Cost estimates involved in the establishment of the project and ongoing maintenance and management costs.*

- Initial account and reporting costs.
- Ongoing report and audit schedule and estimates of these associated costs.
- Report of the project carbon sequestration at each reporting period.
- Forecast of ACCU prices and the impact of future revenue.

Approvals and permits

List any approvals or permits required for the project and/or activities, and their status.

- Include local government development and/or state approvals. This may include, but not limited to a notice to drain or pump water, or from Western Power.
- If approvals will be applied for at a later stage, indicate when.

Monitoring and evaluation

A Carbon Farming Plan should include a detailed monitoring, reporting and auditing section. If the project qualifies as a low-risk environmental plantings project, it may be eligible for zero (0) scheduled audits.

- An independent ecologist, local land care/NRM group or relevant professional can assess the site to demonstrate the project's environmental values.
- On-ground monitoring techniques (e.g., plant counts, survival rates, complexity) photographic and/or satellite imagery) to demonstrate evidence of implementation and ongoing reforestation health.
- Example: Environmental co-benefit metrics will include documentation from an independent ecological assessment, and surveys that confirms significant species (i.e. rare, threatened) have increased in density, diversity, and occurrence.

Co-benefits

"Co-benefits" are defined as the positive environmental, economic and social benefits that arise from a project that add to the value of the carbon.

List the co-benefits relevant to the project and how these will be monitored and measured to support future ACCU values that recognise the co-benefits delivered over time.

Risk assessment and permanence

Risk Assessment: Detail the risk management plan.

Include information on the mitigation activities planned to protect and maintain the carbon stocks credited to the project. Identify:

- Potential risks to the delivery of the project:
 - fire – refer to the CER guidance
 - poor establishment practices
 - weed and pests
 - adverse weather conditions (heat), drought or flood/inundation
 - supply issues i.e. accessing seed or nursery orders, and fencing materials
 - securing contractors

- *in-fill for plant losses.*
- *The probability and effect of those risks eventuating*
- *Mitigation actions that are to be implemented*

Risks that remain high after mitigation/control actions have been implemented should be considered as significant limiting factors to successful delivery of the proposed activities.

Landholders need to assess the risk profile of their project and make decisions on managing these over the life of the project.

Permanence considerations: *State the provisions considered to ensure carbon permanence over the selected period (25 or 100 years).*

Qualified person statement

If the Carbon Farming Plan is used for the Reforestation Management Plan for CER registration, it will need to be reviewed and signed off by an independent, qualified person.

Business Name:

ABN/ACN:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Qualifications:

Experience:

Professional Memberships:

Acknowledgement of having no financial interest in the project:

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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