

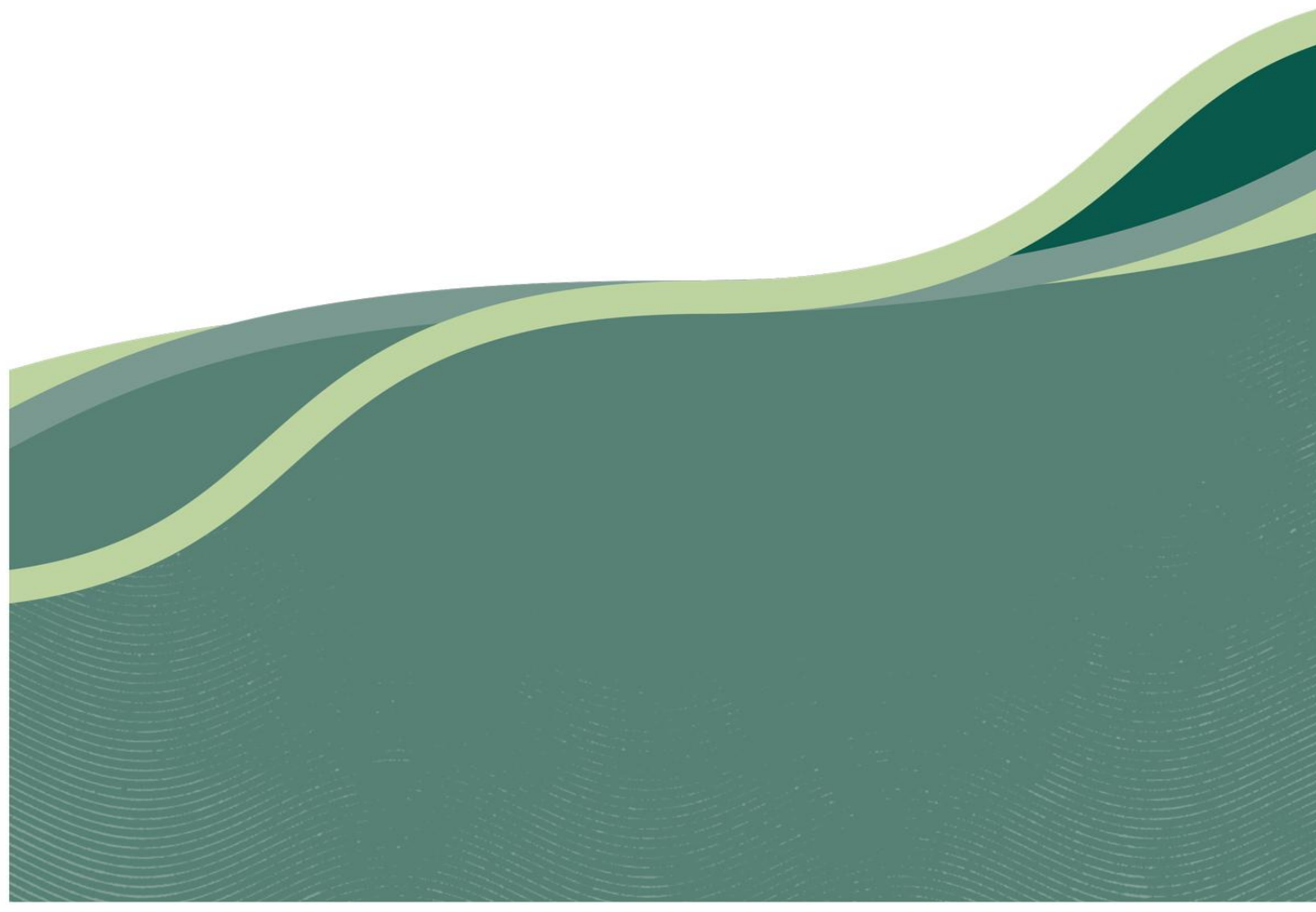


Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Carbon for Farmers Voucher Program Round 3 Program Guidelines

July 2025

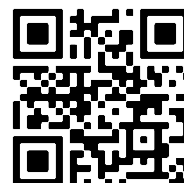


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Links can be accessed on the electronic version of this document.

The QR code links to the webpage with the electronic version.



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Glossary of Terms

ACCU - Australian Carbon Credit Unit. A tradable financial product representing one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) that has been avoided or removed from the atmosphere. ACCUs are part of the ACCU Scheme, a voluntary initiative designed to reduce emissions and support carbon sequestration projects

ACCU Scheme - a voluntary initiative designed to reduce emissions and support carbon sequestration projects

Agreement - a legal document that outlines the terms, conditions and obligations of funding, service delivery, accountability for DPIRD and the funded entity. An Agreement is agreed in writing by the Parties

Applicant - the entity/individual that applies for funding

Application - a funding request made online through SmartyGrants

AWST - Australian Western Standard Time

Carbon farming - activities that sequester (store) carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in soil and vegetation to generate ACCUs and deliver environmental, economic and social co-benefits

Carbon farming project (project) – An area(s), and activities identified for the assessment of, and potential implementation for carbon sequestration

Clean Energy Regulator (CER) - the Australian Government body responsible for administering legislation that will reduce carbon emissions and increase the use of clean energy. The CER administers the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme

DPIRD - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Recipient – a successful Applicant who receives funding from DPIRD

SmartyGrants – the grant management software tool used by DPIRD to receive applications and for the ongoing administration and reporting for executed agreements

Service Provider – a person or organisation with expertise in an area related to the project

Voucher – a type of financial assistance used to contribute towards services rendered.

1. Program purpose

The Carbon for Farmers Voucher Program (CF-VP) supports farmers to understand the opportunities and requirements of carbon farming projects and gain the confidence to develop their own projects.

The purpose of the CF-VP is to provide funding for farmers to access professional advice that increases understanding of carbon farming and its requirements. This includes assessing the feasibility of integrating projects with ongoing farm business operations and guiding informed decision-making.

1.1. Program objectives

- Increase understanding of carbon farming within the agriculture sector and identify opportunities to establish carbon farming projects
- Develop property specific reports that examine the financial and practical feasibility of projects to assist with decision making, project design and planning
- Build the capacity of WA-based Service Providers and affiliated professionals (grower groups, Natural Resource Management and Ranger groups, ecologists, agronomists, and carbon project developers).

1.2. Options

This Round offers Applicants 2 options to cater for different stages of readiness:

Option 1: Opportunity Report for those exploring project options and feasibility

Identifies the options and examines high-level project feasibility. The report is tailored to the farm and the business, identifying suitable methods and potential carbon sequestration, costs, returns, co-benefits, risks and other business considerations to inform the next steps.

Option 2: Carbon Farming Plan for those preparing to start a project

After assessing project feasibility, the next stage is to complete a Carbon Farming Plan which provides a detailed project design and plan before registering the project with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER), the government body responsible for regulating carbon farming projects and the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme ([ACCU Scheme](#)).

1.3. What is a Voucher and what is its value?

Vouchers fund a specified amount of the total cost of the services which is paid directly to the Service Providers by DPIRD upon completion and acceptance of the work.

Recipients also cover a percentage of the cost via cash-contributions for eligible expenses.

1. **Opportunity Report** - voucher of up to \$5,000 (ex GST) with a **30%** minimum cash co-contribution for eligible expenses.
2. **Carbon Farming Plan** - up to \$15,000 (ex GST) with a **20%** minimum cash co-contribution for eligible expenses.

The Service Provider is paid the approved voucher amount by DPIRD, and the agreed co-contribution is paid by the Recipient.

Examples of Recipient and DPIRD contributions

Example A – Opportunity Report

Sally is interested in an Opportunity Report. A Service Provider has quoted \$5,000 (ex-GST).

Maximum DPIRD Voucher is \$5,000 (ex GST).

Workings:

Opportunity Report	\$ 5,000 (ex-GST)
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DPIRD contribution (voucher)	\$ 3,500 (ex-GST)
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Recipient cash co-contribution (30% of the \$5,000 total cost)	= \$ 1,500 (ex-GST)
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Example B – Opportunity Report

Kate and Ben are applying for an Opportunity Report. Their Service Provider has quoted \$8,000 (ex-GST).

Maximum DPIRD Voucher is \$5,000 (ex-GST).

Workings:

Opportunity Report	\$ 8,000 (ex-GST)
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DPIRD contribution (voucher)	\$ 5,000 (ex-GST)
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Recipient cash co-contribution (37.5% of the \$8,000 total cost)	= \$ 3,000 (ex-GST)
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Example C – Carbon Farming Plan

Mike is applying for a Carbon Farming Plan for a reforestation project.

He has sought a quote from his Carbon Service Provider which includes an ecologist advising on the suitable species for the different sites.

The Carbon Service Provider quoted \$12,000 (ex-GST).

Maximum DPIRD Voucher is \$15,000 (ex-GST).

Workings:

Carbon Farming Plan	\$ 12,000 (ex-GST)
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DPIRD contribution (voucher)	\$ 9,600 (ex-GST)
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Recipient cash co-contribution (20% of the \$12,000 total cost)	= \$ 2,400 (ex-GST)
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Example D – Carbon Farming Plan

Jan is applying for a Carbon Farming Plan, and her Carbon Service Provider has quoted \$19,000 (ex-GST).

Maximum DPIRD Voucher is \$15,000 (ex-GST).

Workings:

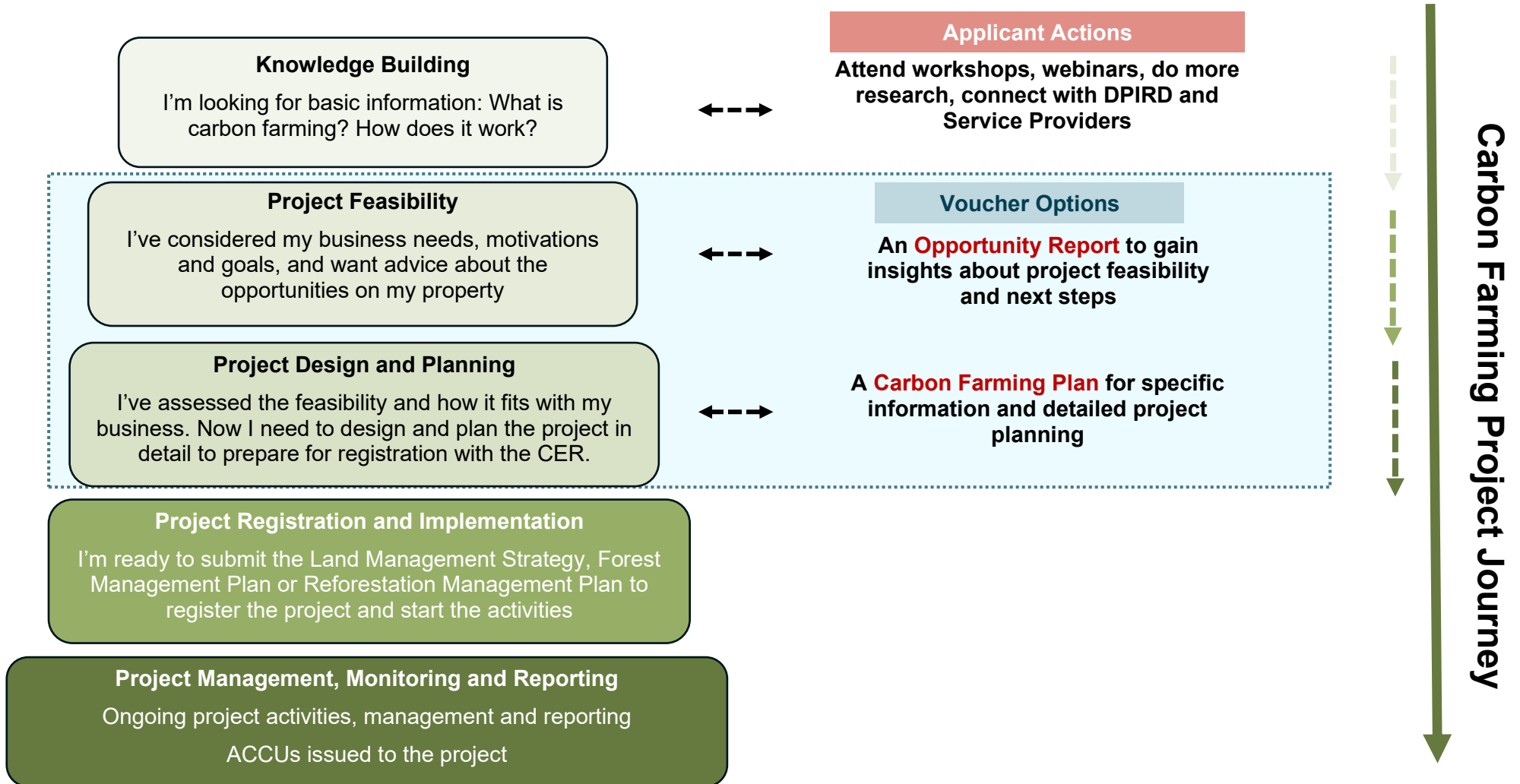
Carbon Farming Plan	\$19,000 (ex-GST)
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DPIRD contribution (voucher)	\$15,000 (ex-GST)
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Recipient cash co-contribution (21% of the \$19,000 total cost)	= \$ 4,000 (ex-GST)
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1.4. How to decide which voucher option to apply for

Level of understanding about carbon farming, motivations, goals and business structure determine which voucher to apply for.



2. What's on offer

2.1. Option 1 – Opportunity Report

2.1.1. What is an Opportunity Report?

An Opportunity Report includes the key considerations for making informed decisions. It gives high-level feasibility for a carbon farming project and helps the farmer decide whether it is a viable option for them and their business.

Preliminary carbon sequestration potential, and project costs and returns are used to indicate the project's 'potential', and benefits, risks, and reporting obligations are also considered.

The Service Provider must do an on-farm site visit to see the property and discuss the business operations before beginning the Opportunity Report.

The Steps to finalise an Opportunity Report (flowchart page 9) shows the process, deliverables and payment arrangements.

2.1.2. Who should apply?

An Opportunity Report is for farmers with a basic understanding of carbon farming who want to explore how a project could work for them.

Understanding the motivation for exploring a project is important: Is it market access, increasing productivity, an investment, maximising returns on the land, alternative revenue, co-benefits (like reducing salinity or improving soil health).

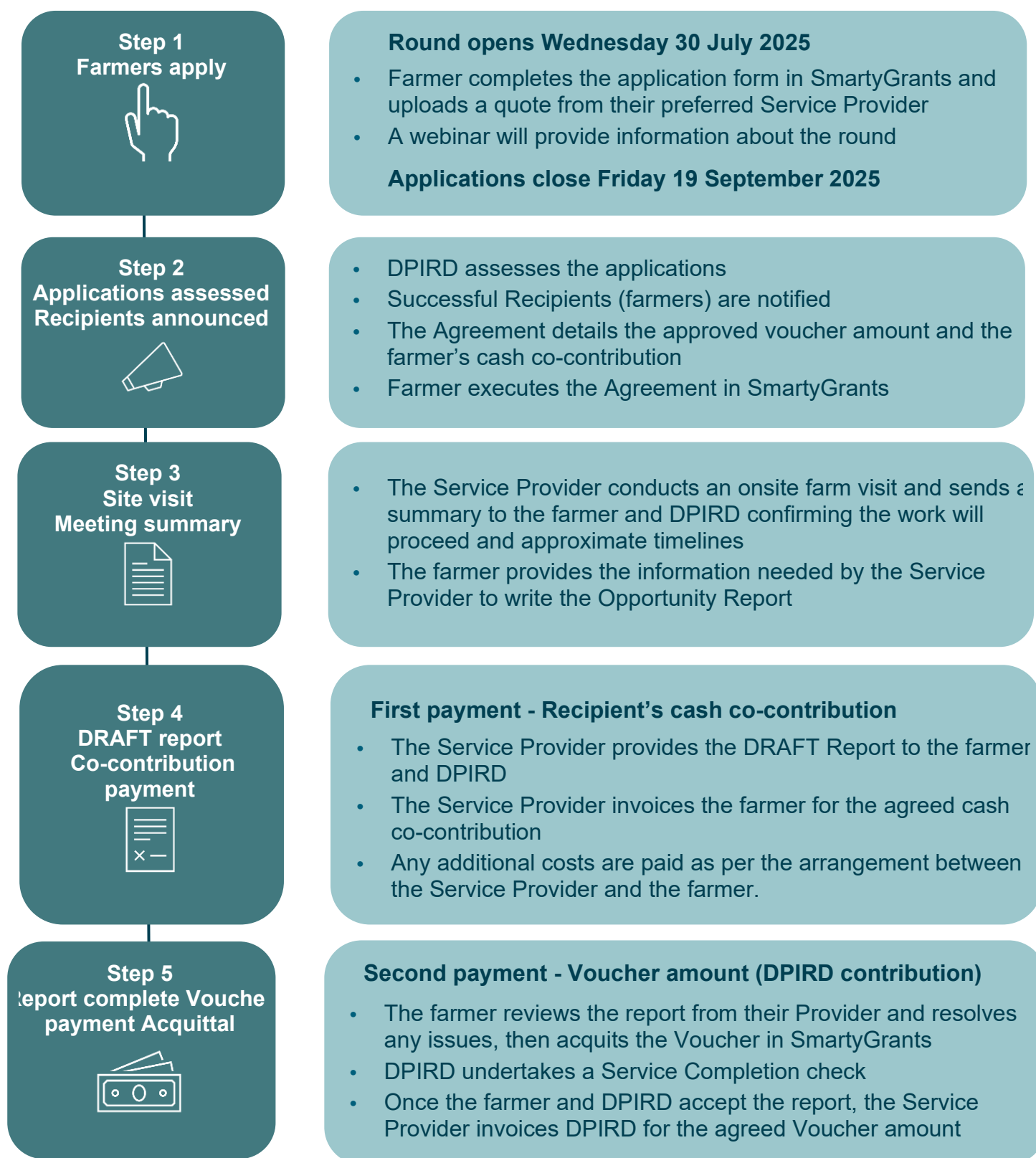
2.1.3. What's included?

This table identifies the minimum content expected for an Opportunity Report. The Service Provider(s) can provide more detail and information.

Required Headings	Required Details
ACCU Scheme	An overview of the ACCU Scheme and key terms (not limited to): • carbon farming methods and activities • baseline land management activities • permanence periods • carbon estimation areas • discounting • carbon estimation areas • carbon potential • Eligible Interest Holder consent • CER reporting and auditing requirements
Motivations and goals	A description of the business and the farmer's aspirations reasons and for undertaking a 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.
Carbon farming benefits	Benefits of a carbon farming project including co-benefits
ACCU Scheme methods and activities	The suitable method(s) and activities that apply to that property
Project areas	Potential areas for the project activities (location, total area)
Carbon sequestration potential	Carbon abatement potential per hectare (identified using recognised tools [e.g. FullCAM, PlanR, LOOC-C, FarmLab])
High-level feasibility	Based on estimated costs and carbon abatement potential under different scenarios*
Risks	Property-specific risks associated with the project
Reporting and auditing	Reporting and auditing requirements (estimated costs and timing)
Approvals	Local government development approval requirements (if applicable)
Next steps	Summary of recommendations and next steps.

*Service Provider does not require an Australian Financial Services License (AFSL)

2.1.4. Steps to finalise an Opportunity Report



2.2. Option 2 – Carbon Farming Plan

2.2.1. What is a Carbon Farming Plan?

A Carbon Farming Plan is a comprehensive report that details the information needed for project registration (as stipulated by the CER). This includes project design and planning, ongoing record-keeping and reporting requirements, and the information needed to make an informed investment decision.

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).

Service Providers must meet with the farmer (Recipient) on site before starting the Carbon Farming Plan to understand the property and the business operations and offer in-person discussion about the outcomes. Costs of site visits must be included in the quote.

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.

The Steps to finalise a Carbon Farming Plan (flowchart page 11) shows the process, deliverables and payment arrangements.

2.2.2. Who should apply?

A Carbon Farming Plan is for farmers who have done some preliminary research and investigation and understand the type of project they want. They are seeking detailed planning information for registration and a financial analysis for business decisions.

The Applicant should have:

- a basic understanding of the ACCU Scheme obligations and timeframes
- considered basic project feasibility, the preferred method(s), the area for the project (e.g. planting area) and the management activities (e.g. cover crops, soil amendments).

The farmer needs to actively work with their Service Provider(s) to develop an investment and registration-ready project proposal.

2.2.3. What's included?

The following is the minimum expected content for a Carbon Farming Plan.
The Service Provider(s) can provide more detail and information.

Required headings	Required 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)
Carbon sequestration modelling	Sequestration modelling over 25 years (FullCAM or equivalent)
ACCU Scheme method and activities	Eligible property specific activities to be implemented
Budget	Project budget including registration, implementation, long term management, reporting
Costing 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, succession planning, finance.

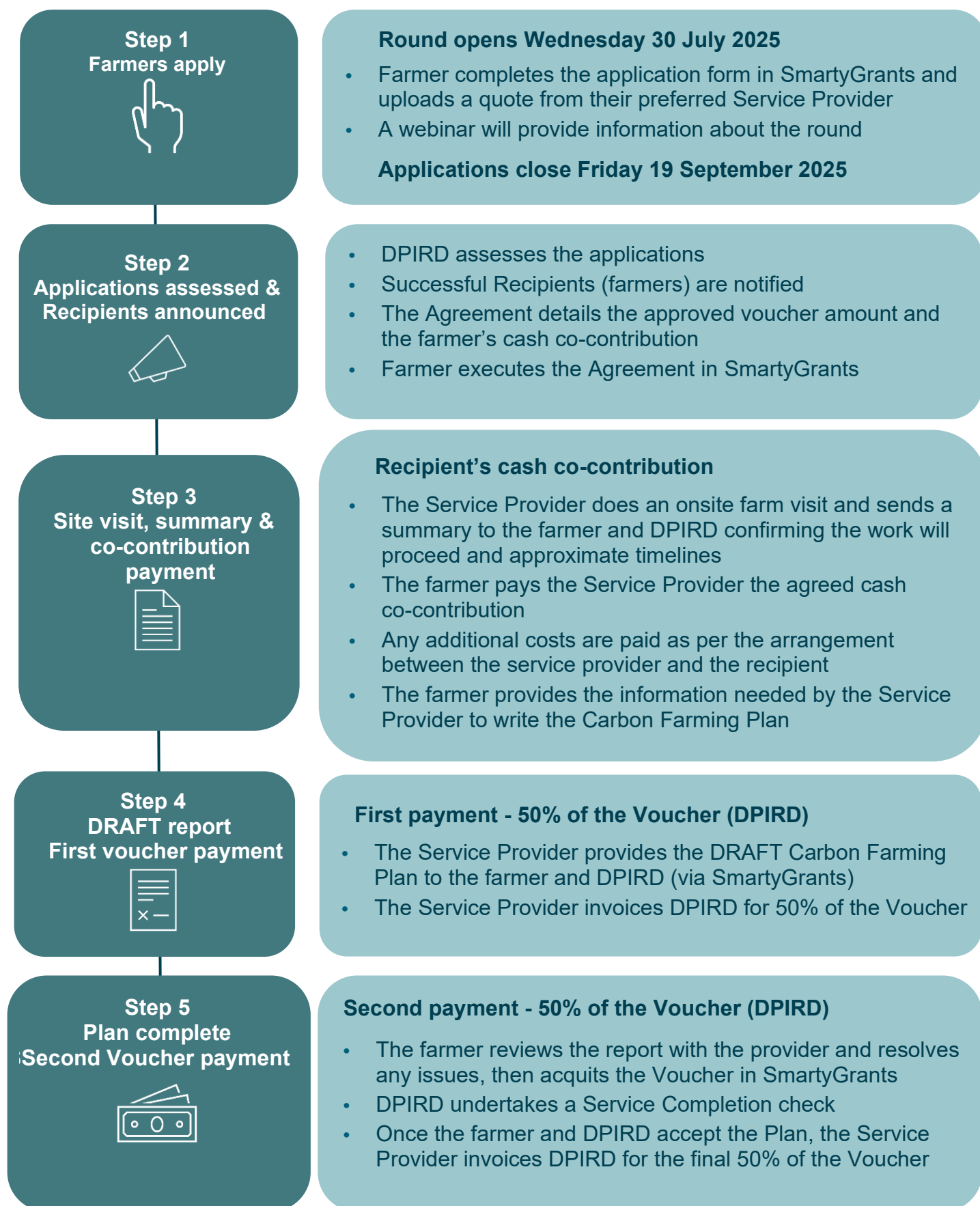
* An Australian Financial Services License (AFSL) is required

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

2.2.4. What's needed for project registration?

Carbon Farming Method		Document required for registration
Soil carbon	<u>Estimation of soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models method 2021</u>	Land Management Strategy - Is prepared or reviewed by someone with appropriate knowledge of agronomy, plant nutrition and soil carbon, and experience in providing agricultural production advice. - Identifies at least one new or materially different eligible activity that will be maintained over the permanence period - Includes soil types, rainfall zone, other activities on the farm - Monitoring activities and records to demonstrate that management activities are conducted to the extent necessary Must be reviewed and signed off by a qualified independent person.
Revegetation (Environmental planting)	<u>Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method 2024</u>	Reforestation Management Plan Many of the record-keeping and reporting requirements must now occur through a reforestation management plan. This must be submitted along with the project application and maintained over the life of the project. Includes: - species planted or expected to be planted - suitability of these species for the area - how each species has or will be established - planting type, geometry, spacing and expected stem density - species to be used for infill planting and how it will be established - how the project will be monitored. Must be reviewed and signed off by a qualified independent person.
Agroforestry	<u>Plantation forestry method</u>	Forest Management Plan Sets out how the project has been / will be run. Includes management activities that have been or will be implemented to address identified risks Must be reviewed and signed off by a qualified independent person.

2.2.5. Steps to finalise a Carbon Farming Plan



2.3. Quotes for services

The quote will be assessed against the Value for Money merit criteria.

Please note the Applicant selects their provider and obtains the quote of their choice.

The Applicant should discuss their needs and expectations with the Service Provider to ensure the option chosen is suitable and the services offered match their needs.

The quote should be tailored to the farmer, the property and the business. This may incorporate services from other providers if relevant.

Applicants should seek more than one quote to assess value for money; the capability of the provider; and whether the services are suitable.

Quotes from the preferred Service Provider(s) are uploaded with the application in Smarty Grants.

Multiple quotes should only be uploaded where an Applicant is using more than one provider to deliver different services (i.e. one quote from a carbon provider, and one quote from a financial provider).

2.3.1. Quote requirements

The quote must be clearly itemised with sufficient detail for the Applicant and DPIRD to understand what is being offered.

Quote requirements:

- The 'Required Headings' must be included in the quote for the Opportunity Report (page 8) and Carbon Farming Plan (page 11). This demonstrates how the proposed services meet the Applicant's needs and value for money
- Items in the quote must relate directly to the development of the Report or Plan
- Include travel costs (mileage, accommodation, etc) for at least one on-farm site visit and an in-person handover meeting for the final Carbon Farming Plan.
- Be on company letterhead with the business ABN and contact details
- Note the date the quote was issued and period of validity.

3. How to apply

3.1. Open and closing dates

Applications open:	Wednesday 30 July 2025
Applications close:	Friday 19 September 2025 12:00 noon (AWST)

3.1.1. Application process

Applications are submitted via this link to [SmartyGrants](#).

The application form must be completed by the Applicant, not a Service Provider on the Applicant's behalf.

The application form has questions about the business and the property, the Applicant, their understanding of carbon farming, the reasons for applying and how this advice will be of benefit to the business. This information will be used as part of the assessment process.

A detailed written quote from the Service Provider(s) is uploaded with the application and assessed on value for money.

If the application was submitted and needs to be changed prior to the closing date, please email cfvp@dpird.wa.gov.au to have it re-opened. No changes will be accepted after the closing date.

Applications are assessed on a competitive basis.

Applicants agree to:

- pay the Service Provider the cash co-contribution as per the Agreement
- fund any additional or ineligible costs
- participate in the program evaluation (e.g., survey and/or interview)
- complete a satisfaction form in SmartyGrants upon acquittal.

3.1.2. Help with the application

- DPIRD's [Service Provider Directory](#) and other resources are on the [CF-VP webpage](#)
- DPIRD will hold a webinar for applicants at the start of the Round.
- Contact the Carbon Farming team to ask questions or get help with the application:
t:08) 9690 2211 or (08) 9368 3649
e: cfvp@dpird.wa.gov.au
- The QR code can be used to access the [CF-VP webpage](#)



3.2. Eligibility

3.2.1. Applicant eligibility criteria

- Owner of a commercial farming property:
 - in the [Southwest Land Division \(agriculture zone\)](#)
 - operating a primary production (farming) business with a WA postcode
 - main source of income is farm production
 - with an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Each business entity is limited to one voucher for either an Opportunity Report or a Carbon Farming Plan.
- Unsuccessful Applicants to CF-VP Round 1 or 2 are eligible to apply to Round 3.

3.2.2. Ineligible Applicants

- Applicants to the Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program
- Commonwealth, state and local government agencies or bodies
- Publicly funded research institutions
- Industry associations
- Not-for-profit and community-based organisations.
- Successful CF-VP Round 1 and 2 Recipients.

3.2.3. Eligible carbon farming methods

- [Estimation of soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models](#)
- [Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method 2024](#)
- [Plantation forestry](#)

Emissions avoidance methods are ineligible.

3.2.4. Eligible expenditure

The services must relate directly to the development of the Opportunity Report or Carbon Farming Plan.

3.2.5. Ineligible expenditure

- Items not directly related to the Opportunity Report or Carbon Farming Plan
- Capital items e.g. equipment
- Professional services e.g. ongoing or routine accounting, tax, agronomy and legal advice and advice that does not relate to establishing a carbon farming project
- Legal advice that relates to the establishment, or review of commercial agreements for the provision of services between the Recipient and a Carbon Service Provider. This includes but is not limited to the development or review of commercial contracts, fee-for service management, or ACCU sharing agreements.

4. Assessment and Administration

4.1. Assessment process and decision making

Eligible applications and quote(s) will be assessed against these merit criteria:

1. Motivation and farm business impact
2. Value for money
3. Alignment to the program's purpose and objectives

To support the continued development of the WA carbon farming industry, DPIRD retains the right to select a diverse range of Applicants, business size and types, location and Service Providers.

DPIRD may, at its discretion, may restrict the number of vouchers per Service Provider to facilitate completion of Reports and/or Plans within suitable timeframes.

DPIRD will determine the breakdown of funding between Options 1 and 2.

4.1.1. Notification of the outcome

Application assessment and notification times are dependent on the applications received.

Applicants will be notified of the assessment outcome by email.

Recipients and their nominated Service Provider(s) will be notified with the funding amount, cash co-contribution, required actions, terms and conditions of use.

DPIRD may publish the Recipients on its website, in media statements and in its materials.

No feedback is given to unsuccessful Applicants, and there is no appeal process.

4.1.2. Payment arrangements

Payments (DPIRD and Recipient cash co-contributions) will be detailed in the Recipient's Voucher Agreement; including who is responsible for each payment.

The Entity name provided in the Application Form will be the party entering into the Voucher Agreement with DPIRD.

The payment process allows Recipients to follow the progress of their reports/plans and have input over the life of the Agreement. The final payment follows confirmation that the Recipient and DPIRD is satisfied with the final report.

Voucher amounts will not be increased once approved by DPIRD, however, if the services delivered are less than the approved amount the Service Provider and the Recipient will be notified of the change to payments.

4.1.3. Finalisation

Vouchers must be acquitted within 12 months of issue. DPIRD reserves the right to cancel the voucher and finalise payment for services rendered, as per the conditions of use.

4.1.4. GST liability

Recipients are liable for the GST in connection with the funds as it is regarded as payment for a "supply". The Voucher amount will be increased by the GST payable.

4.1.5. Personal Information and disclosure of information

Applicants are informed that material relating to the CF-VP (including applications, Agreements, and assessments) is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.