

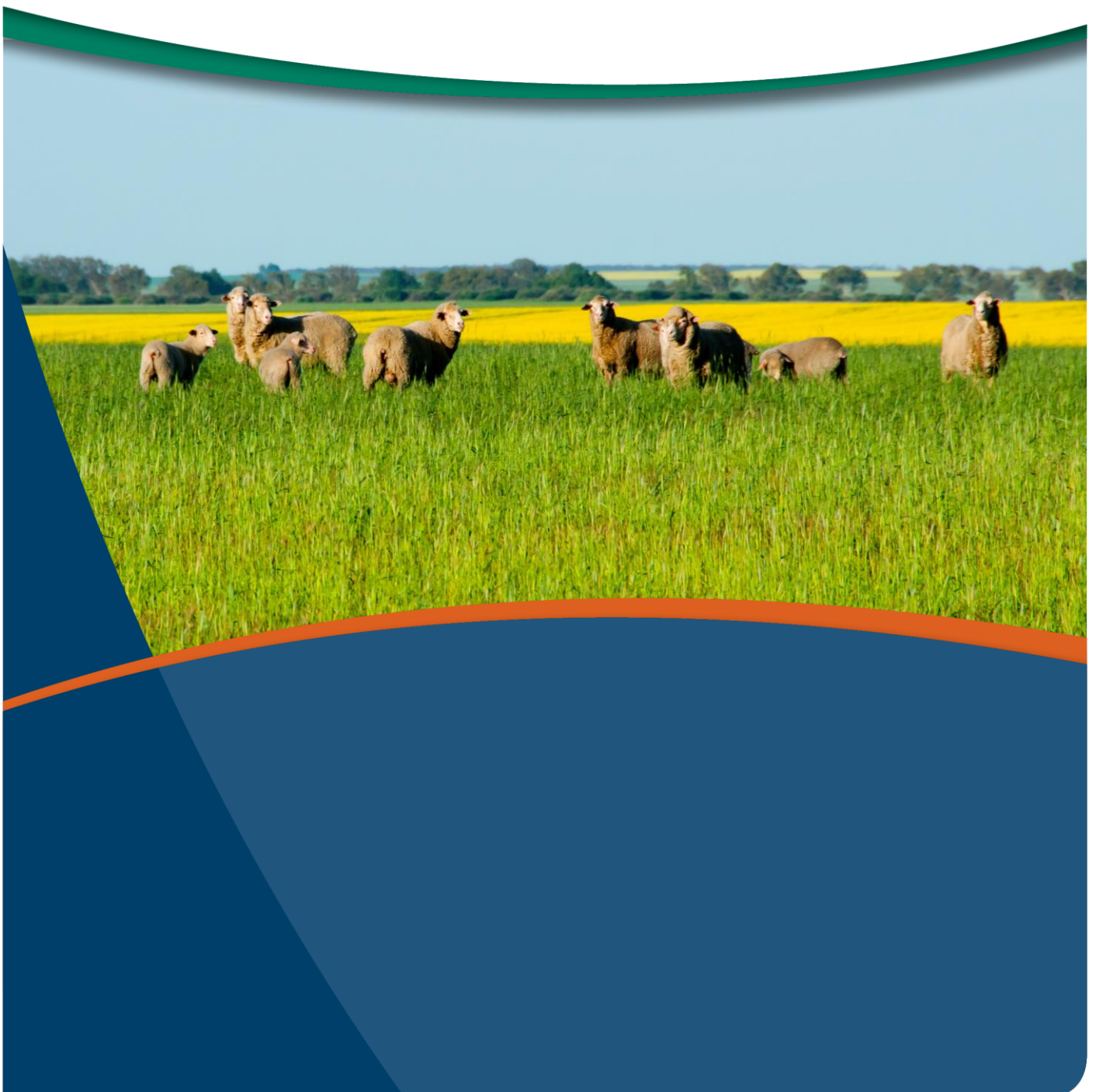


Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

*We're working for  
Western Australia.*

# Western Australian Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program

## 2022/23 Program Guidelines – ACCU Plus



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This publication is available at [www.agric.wa.gov.au/CF-LRP](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/CF-LRP) .

Use of the electronic version of this document will allow the embedded links to be accessed.

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### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their Elders past, present and emerging.

### **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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## Participating in the Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program

### Understand the agreement under the CF-LRP

By participating in the Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program (CF-LRP), you are agreeing to deliver long-term carbon sequestration and priority co-benefits to the Western Australian State Government.

### Read through the CF-LRP documents and seek advice

These documents provide information to support you to participate. As you develop your project ideas, you should seek independent professional advice (e.g., financial, legal, agronomic) and understand what is needed to apply.

### Register with the Clean Energy Regulator

Your carbon farming project must be registered with the Clean Energy Regulator before funding can be provided by the Rural Business Development Corporation. The Clean Energy Regulator has a 90 day processing timeline for project registrations, so it is recommended that you begin early. The quality and detail of information provided can impact the Clean Energy Regulator's timelines. See here for more information on [how to register a project](#).

### Apply to the CF-LRP

Give yourself plenty of time to finalise your application and submit it through the SmartyGrants portal. The funding request, amount of co-contribution, how much carbon will be sequestered, and the co-benefits demonstrate value for money. Include your plan to measure, monitor and report on the project's co-benefits.

### Assessment of applications

An assessment panel will review applications using detailed criteria. The panel may ask for further information and request changes to the project's scope, funding, and deliverables to maximise project and program outcomes.

### Recommendations are made

The assessment panel makes recommendations to the Rural Business Development Corporation, who are the final decision makers.

### Approval by the Rural Business Development Corporation

The Rural Business Development Corporation reviews the assessment panel's recommendations before approving funding and contractual terms to be offered to successful applicants. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified.

### Consider the offer and the legal terms

Successful applicants will be offered an Agreement for Financial Assistance (Agreement), which gives the option (but not the obligation) to undertake the project. Once the Agreement is signed, you will be legally obligated to complete the project and fulfil the requirements of the Agreement.

### Agreement for Financial Assistance

Milestone payments, reporting requirements, and knowledge sharing deliverables are outlined in the Agreement schedule. Payments are made up front (i.e., not retrospective) and at agreed milestones.

### Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)

Your project generates ACCUs, and these are issued by the Clean Energy Regulator into your ANREU (Australian National Registry of Emissions Units) account. As determined in the Agreement schedule, you transfer an agreed number of these ACCUs to the Rural Business Development Corporation. You can decide to sell or hold any surplus ACCUs.

### Ongoing obligations

You will be required to manage your project in accordance with the ongoing requirements of both the Rural Business Development Corporation and the Clean Energy Regulator, including monitoring, reporting, and auditing.

## Glossary

**ACCU Plus CF-LRP Project (Project)** - a set of activities consistent with an approved carbon method and eligibility requirements for registration with the Clean Energy Regulator, as well as meeting the requirements of the CF-LRP.

**Agreement for Financial Assistance (Agreement)** - a legal document that outlines the terms, conditions and obligations of funding, project delivery, accountability for both the Rural Business Development Corporation and the funded business or entity. An Agreement includes any recitals, schedules and annexures, and any amendment to it agreed in writing by the Parties.

**Applicant** - the person or party responsible for carrying out the project. The applicant has the legal right to carry out and control the project. The project applicant can be a single person, multiple people, or an organisation. See full explanation of rights and responsibilities as defined by the [Clean Energy Regulator](#).

**Application** - the form used by applicants to provide information and outline the activities and co-benefits of their project to the Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program. Applications are submitted through the online SmartyGrants portal.

**Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)** - a tradeable financial product that represents one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent abated. The Clean Energy Regulator issues and regulates ACCUs. ACCUs generated by your project are issued into an ANREU account. ACCUs can be held, or sold to generate income, either to the government through a carbon abatement contract (Emissions Reduction Fund), or in the secondary market.

**AWST** - Australian Western Standard Time.

**Carbon Service Providers** - private businesses, independent of government, who can assist farmers and land managers to participate in the Emissions Reduction Fund.

**Clean Energy Regulator** - the Australian Government body responsible for administering legislation that will reduce carbon emissions and increase the use of clean energy.

**Co-benefits** - the additional, positive outcomes of carbon sequestration. The Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program prioritises environmental, social, and economic co-benefits.

**DPIRD** - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

**Emissions Reduction Fund** – a voluntary scheme managed by the Australian Government. It aims to provide incentives for a range of organisations and individuals to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce their emissions.

**Not for Profit** - organisations that provide services to the community and do not operate to make a profit, personal gain, or other benefit to particular people.

**Rural Business Development Corporation (RBDC)** - the corporation established under the *Rural Business Development Corporation Act 2000 (WA)* that administers approved assistance schemes on behalf of the WA Government. The Rural Business Development Corporation administers the CF-LRP.

**Recipient** – an applicant who has entered an Agreement for Financial Assistance.

**SmartyGrants** - the grant management software tool used by DPIRD. Used to submit an application and all project reports once funded.

# Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program Overview

The Western Australian (WA) Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program (CF-LRP) is a key initiative of the [WA State Climate Policy](#).

The aim of the CF-LRP is to realise the potential of the WA agriculture sector to sequester carbon in the landscape. The program will increase the uptake of carbon farming projects, enhance the long-term productivity of agriculture, and deliver environmental, social, and economic co-benefits.

Participants in the CF-LRP play an integral role in WA's response to climate change and contribute to the State Government's aspiration to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Funding decisions for ACCU Plus projects will be made according to the following investment principles:

- Maintain the integrity of farming communities and the WA agricultural industry
- Improve participant knowledge and capability, particularly small to medium farm enterprises and larger businesses yet to engage with carbon markets
- Deliver market diversity, including geographic, project (i.e., carbon sequestration methodologies, type of co-benefits) and participant diversity
- Fund projects that are additional to existing business operations (i.e., would not have occurred without State Government financial support).

For more information about the CF-LRP visit: [www.agric.wa.gov.au/CF-LRP](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/CF-LRP).

## 1. Core elements of an ACCU Plus project

“ACCU Plus” projects generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), deliver co-benefits to the State, and feature six core elements:

- **Integration with agriculture:** Projects must demonstrate that on-ground carbon farming activities are integrated, aligned with, and enhance the farm practices of an ongoing agricultural business. There should be no net loss to agriculture and the property must remain predominantly used for agricultural purposes.
- **Emissions Reduction Fund project:** an ACCU Plus project must be capable of registering with the Clean Energy Regulator, using at least one eligible carbon farming method to generate ACCUs (see section 0). Obtaining and maintaining Clean Energy Regulator registration for the life of the Agreement for Financial Assistance (Agreement) is an essential requirement.
- **Co-benefits:** an ACCU Plus project must deliver one or more of the five CF-LRP priority co-benefits. The CF-LRP Co-benefits Standard 2022-23 supports applicants to identify applicable co-benefits and develop a plan. The ability to deliver co-benefits forms part of the selection process.
- **Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting:** ACCU Plus projects must complete regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting to the standards set by the:
  - Clean Energy Regulator for certification of ACCUs;
  - CF-LRP for verification of co-benefits; and
  - Rural Business Development Corporation as defined in individual Agreements

The amount of monitoring and reporting will vary according to the project's level of complexity and the amount of funding received.



- **Project timeframe and permanence requirements:** Successful applicants will enter an Agreement with the Rural Business Development Corporation for a period of up to 10 years and will maintain the carbon stocks in accordance with Emissions Reduction Fund's permanence requirements (25 or 100 years).
- **Repayment of funding:** successful ACCU Plus CF-LRP applicants receive up-front funding for project establishment costs. This funding is repaid with an agreed number of ACCUs generated by the project. Funding amounts, milestones, and the volume of ACCUs as repayment are proposed by the applicant in the submission. The agreed ACCU volume is fixed upon acceptance of the proposal by the Rural Business Development Corporation. Alternative forms of repayment will not be accepted (i.e., cash). ACCUs generated by the project in excess of the agreed repayment amount remain the property of the applicant.

## 2. Types of ACCU Plus projects

ACCU Plus carbon farming projects must be located within the South West Land Division (Map 1), with funding split between two categories:

1. **ACCU Plus A**  
Registered Emissions Reduction Fund soil carbon projects in areas with an average rainfall **above** 350 mm (May – October 2000-2020) and Emissions Reduction Fund registered vegetation projects located within the South West Land Division.
2. **ACCU Plus B**  
Registered Emissions Reduction Fund **soil** carbon projects in an area with an annual average rainfall **below** 350mm (May – October 2000-2020) located within the South West Land Division.

ACCU Plus B projects play an important role in understanding the potential of WA soils to sequester carbon and the permanence that can be achieved, and the Rural Business Development Corporation recognises the inherently higher risk profile for projects in low rainfall areas. As such, it may exercise its discretion to reduce, amend, or waive repayment obligations for unsuccessful ACCU Plus B projects that have otherwise met all the Emissions Reduction Fund and Clean Energy Regulator requirements (e.g., eligibility, sampling, reporting, and auditing), and provided the agreed data and information to DPIRD.

Note: If you are planning a soil carbon project, check the [ACCU Plus B - Eligible Areas map](#) or the [Co-benefits Information Portal](#) to determine if your project is in the ACCU Plus A or B zone. These are not differentiated in the SmartyGrants application form.

## 2.1. Eligible Emissions Reduction Fund methods

The table below identifies the Emissions Reduction Fund methods eligible for the CF-LRP.

Vegetation <sup>1</sup>	
<a href="#">Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings - FullCAM</a>	<a href="#">A guide to the reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings - FullCAM method</a>
<a href="#">Measurement based methods for new farm forestry plantations</a>	<a href="#">A guide to the farm forestry method</a>
Soil	
<a href="#">Estimating soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models method</a>	<a href="#">Understanding your soil carbon project - Simple method guide</a>  <a href="#">Guidance for meeting the requirements of soil carbon land management strategies for 2021 soil carbon projects</a>

The Clean Energy Regulator will be releasing an Integrated Farm Management method in 2023. This method allows separate land-based activities to be combined or 'stacked' on the same property or aggregated properties. This means you could run a soil and vegetation project on the same project area. When the Integrated Farm Management method is released, ACCU Plus projects will have the option of transitioning to the method. If you choose to run both a soil and vegetation project, you will need to answer some questions twice. This will display automatically in the application form based on which Emissions Reduction Fund method(s) you select.

Anyone interested in running a carbon farming project should understand the Emissions Reduction Fund method requirements and choose the permanence period (25 or 100 years) that is right for them.

Where necessary, seek expert advice from agronomists, financial advisers, natural resource management (NRM) groups, and carbon service providers when planning the project. See DPIRD's [Service Provider Directory](#).

**Appendix A** summarises the requirements of each method.

<sup>1</sup> Note the eligibility requirements for plantings projects considered for CF-LRP funding must adhere to federal, state and local government policies and restrictions on the percentage of land able to be planted in a carbon project.



### 3. Co-benefits

Co-benefits are additional, positive outcomes from carbon farming and can increase the perceived and actual value of the carbon sequestered. The CF-LRP facilitates carbon farming projects that deliver one or more of its five priority co-benefits.



The [CF-LRP Co-benefits Standard 2022-23](#) helps you identify the relevant co-benefits and develop a plan to monitor and report on their delivery.

Applicants can choose to demonstrate any combination of co-benefit categories using any number of suitable criteria.

The nominated co-benefits will be measured and reported on at agreed milestones by the project applicant. Independent verification of co-benefits is not required, however appropriate planning for the delivery of co-benefits forms part of the selection process.

The CF-LRP [Co-benefits Information Portal](#) provides GIS mapping information to support co-benefit identification and should be used in conjunction with other information sources and on-ground evidence to validate the potential co-benefits associated with a project.

Note: Soil projects are not eligible to claim biodiversity and conservation or salinity mitigation co-benefits.

### 4. Round 2 Funding

Round 2 has three levels of funding requests:

- **Tier 1: up to \$100,000**
- **Tier 2: between \$100,001 to \$250,000**
- **Tier 3: over \$250,000**

### 5. How to apply

Applications are submitted using the online SmartyGrants tool. Applications will not be accepted in any other format.

A link to the SmartyGrants form is below and on the [CF-LRP webpage](#).

- <https://agric.smartygrants.com.au/ACCUPlusRound2>

All submissions, including supporting documentation, must be submitted by **12 noon (AWST) Friday 2 December**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time to submit your application, especially if you experience internet connectivity issues.

For more information email [carbonfarming@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:carbonfarming@dpird.wa.gov.au)

## 5.1. Documents to help you with your application

- A [Getting Ready to Apply Round 2 ACCU Plus](#) guide provides hints on how to complete your application.
- [Vegetation](#) (Reforestation) and [Soil carbon](#) land management strategy templates can assist with project planning.
- The [CF-LRP Co-benefits Standard 2022-23](#).

These and a range of other resources are found on the [CF-LRP webpages](#).

## 5.2. Supporting documentation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attach the following information with submissions to assist the assessment panel in their deliberations:

- Land management strategies and other supporting documents that detail project activities.
- Quotes for project materials, contracted services, and consultants to support the funding request and milestones.
- Any documents referenced in the application.
- Site plans and maps of on-ground activity.
- Letters of commitment from any organisations providing co-contributions (cash or other resources or effort) to the project. Letters must provide the details of what is being contributed, and the total value of that co-contribution to validate the information supplied in the application.

Successful applicants may be required to provide Letters of commitment for all co-contributions prior to funds being released.

Please ensure attachments are labelled meaningfully so it is clear what the file contains.

## 6. Eligibility

### 6.1. Who can apply?

The following businesses are eligible to apply for CF-LRP funding:

- Commercial farm property owners including sole traders, trading partnerships, companies and trading trusts operating as a primary producer
- Entities undertaking a project under commercial arrangements with the owner/s of a farm property or properties, including:
  - Community groups such as landcare groups, Land Conservation District Committees and natural resource management groups
  - Industry sector and grower groups
  - Local Government Authorities
  - Carbon service providers
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community organisations including Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate

Applicants will **not** be eligible for funding if they are:

- A Commonwealth, State, or Territory agency or body (including government business enterprises)

- A resident/organisation based outside of Australia
- An unincorporated association.

To be eligible:

- You must be the person or party with the legal right to carry out and control the project
- The property must be predominantly used for agricultural purposes i.e., under the state's applicable planning laws, most of the land is zoned for agricultural land uses and, at the time of application, used to operate a commercial agricultural enterprise
- You need to have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for GST
- If your business or entity has been established for two or more years, you need to provide at least two years of audited financial statements AND a statement of viability from the Chief Financial Officer or your accountant
- If your business or entity has been established for less than two years, you need to provide a statement of viability from the Chief Financial Officer or your accountant and any available financial records
- You and/or the organisation/directors/key personnel must be willing to undergo financial and other checks, as deemed reasonable by DPIRD. This may include a financial viability assessment for which you will receive a questionnaire from a third-party to assist in the completion of this assessment.
- You/your business must be one of the following entity types:
  - a sole trader
  - a partnership
  - a company incorporated in Australia
  - an incorporated association
  - a company incorporated by guarantee
  - an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
  - a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation
  - a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation
  - a publicly funded research organisation or individual
  - an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006

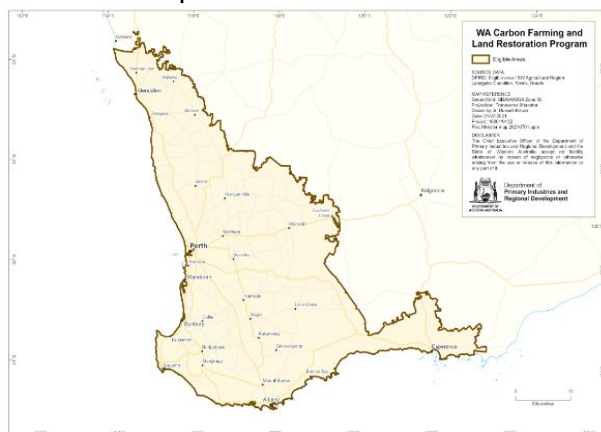
## 6.2. Additional applicant information

Further to the project information, you may be requested to supply other information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Additional information about the project activities or other aspects of the project that will support the assessment panel make recommendations
- A copy of any deeds that outline the power of a trustee to make an application, and to execute the Agreement with the State Government (if relevant)
- Evidence of current insurance status (public liability and/or professional indemnity)
- Audited/unaudited statements from previous grants or financial years
- Identification of the applicant as an individual, group or organisation
- Verification for a 'Not for Profit' or registered charity
- Verification of legal status (e.g., registered constituted organisation)

### 6.3. Project location

Projects must be located in the South West Land Division, also known as the agricultural region or zone, as shown in Map 1.



Map 1 – South West Land Division

### 6.4. Project requirements

To be eligible, ACCU Plus projects must be eligible for registration, be in the process of being registered, or registered (but not commenced), with the Clean Energy Regulator.

To meet the Clean Energy Regulator’s [newness requirement](#), CF-LRP funding cannot be provided until the project is registered. It is strongly recommended that applicants register their project as soon as possible to prevent delays in receiving funding. Note: the Clean Energy Regulator can take 90 days to approve registration and changes made to the proposed project may increase this timeframe.

Projects under the ‘*Estimating soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models method 2020*’ must submit a [land management strategy](#) outlining management activities, and information on risks, monitoring, and predicted improvements to baseline soil carbon levels, to the Clean Energy Regulator as part of the registration process.

As carbon farming projects need to be registered with the Clean Energy Regulator before CF-LRP funding is dispersed, and budgeted activities must not have commenced prior to funding, the cost of developing land management strategies for soil projects is not eligible for funding.

The applicant of an ACCU Plus project must appoint the Rural Business Development Corporation representative as an approver on their [Australian National Register of Emissions Units \(ANREU\) account](#) until the contracted number of ACCUs has been transferred to the Rural Business Development Corporation ANREU account.

### 6.5. Carbon project developers

If a carbon project developer is the applicant, or has a commercial agreement with the applicant, the carbon project developer (entity or person) must be a signatory to the Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct. This voluntary and industry-led Code aims to promote market integrity, consumer protection and appropriate interaction with carbon project stakeholders. Refer to <https://carbonmarketinstitute.org/code/the-code/about-the-code/>.

## 6.6. Eligible activities for funding

A project and its activities funded through the CF-LRP must be eligible, new (i.e., not yet commenced before funding is granted) and additional (i.e., would not have occurred without State Government financial support).

Budget items used to calculate funding requests must only include project delivery costs for activities that commence after the CF-LRP assessment process. Costs incurred prior to the project being selected by the Rural Business Development Corporation are specifically excluded from funding requests, however, may be considered for co-contribution calculations (refer to section 7.1).

A list of eligible activities is provided in **Appendix B**.

## 6.7. Ineligible activities for funding

The following items are ineligible for funding; however, some may be considered for project co-contributions (refer to section 7.1):

- Expenses already incurred, funded, or resourced, including:
  - project coordination (e.g., salaries or salary on-costs)
  - officer 'time'
  - overheads
  - administration expenses
  - cost of submitting the application
- Activities already funded on an ongoing basis by a third party
- Activities that commenced prior to the notification of a successful application
- Land management strategies as required for soil carbon project registration with the Clean Energy Regulator
- Purchase of equipment or materials ordinarily a landholder's responsibility as part of the day-to-day management of a property
- Activities that are a statutory or regulatory responsibility of the landholder (e.g., standard boundary fences)
- Purchase or development of data and information available free of charge
- Purchase, lease, or acquisition of land
- Carbon emissions avoidance activities

# 7. Project Funding

## 7.1. Types of co-contributions

Co-contributions are resources (e.g., money, labour, time, machinery, equipment, consumables, or materials) donated to the project or provided through other funding sources. Co-contributions usually take the form of cash or 'in-kind'.

Funds from other State and Australian Government funding programs or in-kind contributions may be identified but cannot form part of the applicant's co-contribution.

### Cash co-contribution

Applicants must commit and demonstrate the expenditure of a minimum 30 per cent cash co-contribution to the project over the lifetime of the Agreement (i.e., to apply for funding of

\$100,000, the applicant must commit and contribute a minimum of \$30,000, bringing the total project cash resources to \$130,000).

Applicant cash co-contributions are expected to exceed the minimum and receive a weighting in the assessment process.

If the applicant is a primary producer, the following items can be counted towards the cash co-contribution total once the minimum 30 per cent requirement has been demonstrated:

- Project planning costs, including site assessment and financial, agricultural, agronomic, ecological, or carbon advice (Note: Applicants need to ensure that such activities do not render the project ineligible for registration with the Clean Energy Regulator). Evidence of costs will need to be provided in the application (e.g., itemised invoices).
- Recipients of Carbon for Farmers Vouchers can also include their (mandatory) 10:1 voucher cash co-contribution as a CF-LRP cash-co-contribution.

Applicants may be asked to list related party entities. The purpose is to cross reference the organisations listed in the schedule of works to ensure cash payments are not being made to related party entities, an entity controlled by the applicant, or an entity in which the applicant has an interest via indirect means.

The relationship between the applicant and project related expenses (both CF-LRP funding and co-contributions) will be scrutinised to ensure payments are made to genuine third parties to ensure the cash co-contribution is a true contribution and not retained within a group of related entities.

### **In-kind co-contribution**

In-kind co-contributions are contributions of goods or services (non-cash). In-kind contributions do not count towards the applicant's cash co-contribution and are identified separately to the overall project budget.

In-kind contributions include:

- Time spent by volunteers
- Time spent by paid staff where the salary costs are already resourced/funded
- Administrative or overhead costs where they are already resourced/funded
- Expertise, advice, or professional services
- Provision or donations of materials such as fencing materials and seedlings
- Donated use of equipment and the services of its operator by either the applicant or a third party

## **8. Assessment**

Each application is assessed by a panel in a competitive process. The information provided in the application allows each assessor to make an informed and reasoned judgement about the merits of the application, and whether the proposed on-ground activities will deliver the carbon sequestration volumes and co-benefits claimed.

Applicants are expected to provide an adequate level of detail and quality of information relative to the complexity of the project and the size of the funding request.



## 8.1. Assessment criteria

The merit of each application is assessed against the following criteria:

### *Primary outcomes*

- Co-benefits - delivery of legitimate co-benefits with appropriate monitoring and reporting proposed
- Value for money – balance between the funding request and delivery of public good
- Feasibility – likelihood of project success, including applicant capability to deliver on-ground activities and comply with the regulatory requirements

### *Value-add outcomes*

- Impact – potential to have a positive impact on farming practices
- Risk mitigation – appropriate risk mitigation actions identified
- Demonstrated engagement with the farming community

## 8.2. Decision-making

The stages in the assessment of eligible applications are:

- **Individual assessment** by subject matter experts and project assessors who review each application, seeking technical advice as required. Additional information may be requested to clarify aspects of the application and/or on-ground activities.
- **Assessment Panel**, composed of subject matter experts, external experts and DPIRD Executive, convenes to make a consensus assessment of each project and determine the recommended projects. The panel may request further information about the scope, funding request, deliverables, and other aspect of the application to make final decisions.
- **Rural Business Development Corporation Board** reviews the recommendations from the Assessment Panel before approving the final funding decisions in alignment with the objectives and principles of the CF-LRP.

## 9. Notification of application outcomes

Successful projects will be published on the [CF-LRP website](#) and applicants will be informed via:

- Formal notification by email
- Inclusion in a public media release
- Announcement on the DPIRD website.

Unsuccessful applicants will be informed via:

- Formal notification by email which includes feedback on the application. The applicant will be advised they can apply in subsequent rounds (unless the CF-LRP has closed)
- Offer of feedback and contact details will be provided.

## 10. Execution of the Agreement for Financial Assistance

Arrangements to finalise the Agreement will include:

- Email confirming successful application outlining standard Agreement details and instructions

- Appointment to discuss Agreement terms (Q&A)
- Appointment to clarify the Project Schedule if required
- Execution of the Agreement and associated forms by the applicant
- All required paperwork lodged with DPIRD, acting on delegated authority of the Rural Business Development Corporation
- Agreement countersigned by the Chair of the Rural Business Development Corporation or their delegated authority.

Both parties must sign the Agreement and conditions precedent be met before funds are disbursed.

## 11. Terms and conditions of the Agreement for Financial Assistance



Successful ACCU Plus applicants receive financial assistance from the Rural Business Development Corporation to establish their project. This funding is repaid through the delivery of an agreed number of the project's ACCUs.

Applicants propose the amount of funding they require, the milestones, and the volume of ACCUs to be delivered and when. The agreed ACCU volume is fixed upon acceptance of the applicant's proposal by the Rural Business Development Corporation.

Alternative forms of repayment will not be accepted (i.e., cash). ACCUs generated by the project in excess to those delivered to the Rural Business Development Corporation as per the Agreement remain the property of the applicant.

All Agreements are a maximum of 10 years for ACCU Plus. Upon entering an Agreement, the applicant agrees on the delivery of ACCUs and co-benefits.

No funding will be provided for activities that commence prior to the notification of a successful application.

Milestone payments may be made where applicable and subject to the applicant providing sufficient information on the agreed milestones to indicate the project is progressing satisfactorily.

A standard Agreement sets out the terms and conditions for the project, including obligations of ACCU and co-benefit delivery, reporting, and knowledge sharing.

Recipients may not terminate the Funding Agreement before the Clean Energy Regulator has issued the project with ACCUs.

If the RBDC believes that the ACCU Plus B Recipient has acted in good faith and cannot meet its obligations, the RBDC may waive or reduce the requirements for the Recipient. This includes maintaining eligibility with the CER, and meeting all Agreement obligations, including sharing of data and working collaboratively with DPIRD and the RBDC.

### 11.1. Monitoring and reporting

The reporting arrangements for the CF-LRP will include progress and final reports which detail the project's performance at relevant milestones e.g., delivery of co-benefits. This may include successes, challenges, lessons learnt and constraints that will increase capability and knowledge and grow the WA carbon market.

Reports are to be submitted via the SmartyGrants reporting form on or before due dates.

In addition to progress reports, project monitoring activities may include:

- Milestone reviews with DPIRD via email/phone/in-person
- Site visits.

The level of monitoring and reporting for each project will vary according to project complexity and size of funding.

## **11.2. Knowledge sharing**

The Agreement will identify knowledge sharing outcomes created by the project, and how these outcomes will be shared with DPIRD and/or the broader public.

The objective of this knowledge sharing is to accelerate development and growth of Western Australia's land-based carbon farming sector.

Depending on the type and scale of the project. These knowledge sharing outcomes could include:

- information already gathered by the project, shared with DPIRD (e.g., Clean Energy Regulator offsets reports, data from soil sampling and analysis).
- generating and collating data that measures co-benefits for communicating to markets and other land managers
- extension activities (e.g., field walks)

## **11.3. Intellectual Property**

Provision of data and information regarding carbon sequestration, co-benefit delivery, or other matters will be specified in the Agreement and provided to DPIRD.

Any part of the project containing intellectual property rights should be clearly identified by the applicant in the Agreement.

Any pre-existing intellectual property rights will remain the property of the applicant or the rightful owner of those intellectual property rights.

## **11.4. Dealing with milestone achievement issues or delays**

Recipients may experience delays or fail to deliver on aspects of their Agreement for a range of reasons. In such circumstances, early and transparent communication from the Recipient to DPIRD and the Rural Business Development Corporation is required once the potential risk of failing to deliver becomes evident. Adjustments to project scope and/or timing requires a formal written request from the Recipient and approval from Rural Business Development Corporation. DPIRD will actively work with the Recipient to resolve the issues.

In the event of issues requiring more direct intervention, the Program Manager may require one or more of the following approaches:

- DPIRD/Recipient meeting/s
- Facilitated DPIRD/Recipient workshop/s
- Project audit/s by independent specialists
- Mediation.

## 11.5. Project Acquittal – Final Report

Financial acquittal and project report requirements are defined in the Agreement. The final project report will report against the project milestones as defined in the Schedule as well as descriptions of the outcomes delivered, and the lessons learnt from the project both in terms of the achievements delivered and processes employed:

- Periodic progress reports and the final report will be submitted as outlined in the Agreement
- Reports will be provided on reporting and financial acquittal forms via SmartyGrants

The acquittal report will be submitted no later than 12 weeks after the agreed completion date of the project. This includes projects that may be terminated early.

## 12. Tax and GST

Recipients receive financial assistance in the form of up-front funding (at agreed milestones) in exchange for an in-kind repayment of ACCUs. Applicants are encouraged to seek tax advice, based on individual circumstances, to understand the potential implications of obtaining CF-LRP funding.

Refer to the Clean Energy Regulator webpage for information on the [tax treatment of ACCUs](#).

- GST-registered Recipients will be liable for GST in connection with the funding. The funding will be increased by the amount of GST payable.
- Recipients must provide a tax invoice for the GST inclusive value of the funding.
- From 1 July 2022, the proceeds from the sale of ACCUs will be treated as primary production income. The revenue from selling an ACCU will be recognised as assessable income in the year of sale.

## 13. Personal information and disclosure of information

Applicants are informed that DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*. This provides a general right of access to records held by the State Government agencies and local governments.

## Appendix A: Emissions Reduction Fund method requirements

### Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method

Crediting period	Twenty-five years – The crediting period is the period of time a project can apply to claim Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs).
Eligibility requirements	<p>There are general eligibility requirements in the Act, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">newness</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulatory additionality and funding from other government programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">legal right</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Projects can be run in any area of Australia with FullCAM modelling data, and plantings must be established on land that has been clear of forest cover for at least 5 years previously.</p>
Project activities	<p>A project involves establishing and maintaining vegetation such as trees or shrubs on land that has been clear of forest for at least the last 5 years. This can be either a mallee eucalypt planting or a mixture of native species, termed a mixed-species environmental planting.</p> <p>Trees can be planted as either seeds or tubestock, in rows or randomly, and in areas that are either linear belts or blocks. They must be planted at a density that will allow them to achieve forest cover, which means they must have the potential to reach a height of at least 2 metres and provide crown cover over at least 20% of the land.</p>
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The land used for a project must not contain woody biomass or an invasive native scrub species that needs clearing before planting can occur, except for known weed species that are required or authorised by law to be cleared.</li> <li>• Certain types of activities, such as harvesting and grazing, are restricted.</li> <li>• Mallee eucalypt plantings are excluded from areas that receive more than 600 millimeters of long-term average rainfall unless the planting meets the exemption requirements under Section 4.9 of the method.</li> </ul>
How is abatement calculated	<p>Abatement is calculated using a computer modelling tool called the Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM).</p> <p>FullCAM uses a variety of settings, called calibrations, to model the amount of carbon stored in different types of plantings.</p> <p>The data used as inputs to FullCAM includes the project's location, planting dates, planting type, planting geometry (i.e., belts or blocks), plant spacing (distance between rows within a planting, distance between adjacent plantings), stocking density and tree proportion, where relevant.</p>
Reporting requirements	<p>The method sets out method-specific requirements for the first and subsequent reports. The information you are required to provide includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• net abatement amount and related carbon stock data</li> <li>• data on emissions from biomass burning and fuel use</li> <li>• project area, forest management and forest cover information</li> <li>• FullCAM files and output data.</li> </ul>

Monitoring requirements	<p>The method describes specific monitoring requirements, including using on-ground observation and/or remote-sensing imagery to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitor management and disturbance events</li> <li>• demonstrate that the requirements for any specific calibrations have been met.</li> </ul>
Record-keeping requirements	<p>The method describes record-keeping requirements related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forest cover and plantings</li> <li>• stratification into carbon estimation areas</li> <li>• fires</li> <li>• fuel use</li> <li>• FullCAM modelling</li> <li>• forest management</li> <li>• any specific calibrations used</li> <li>• the project area.</li> </ul>
Audits	<p>All projects receive an audit schedule when the project is declared and must provide audit reports according to this schedule. In most cases, a minimum of 3 audits will be scheduled and additional audits may be triggered.</p> <p>An initial audit report must be submitted with the first report for your project</p>
Specialist skills	<p>To ensure the required level of accuracy of the inputs to FullCAM for calculating carbon stock, it may be necessary to seek assistance from a technical expert. You should consider the cost of this service before deciding to run a project.</p>

### Measurement based methods for new farm forestry plantations method

Crediting period	<p>Twenty-five years – The crediting period is the period of time a project can apply to claim Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs).</p>
Eligibility requirements	<p>There are general eligibility requirements in the Act, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">newness</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulatory additionality and funding from other government programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">legal right</a>.</li> </ul> <p>For at least five years before the project begins, the project area must have included land used for grazing or cropping, or land that was fallow between grazing or cropping.</p> <p>A project can be either a harvest plantation or a permanent planting. To be eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• both types of project must have been established within a certain range of dates, and</li> <li>• harvest plantations must also satisfy certain rainfall criteria.</li> </ul>



Project activities	<p>A project involves establishing and maintaining trees as either permanent plantings or in harvest plantations. Trees can be planted as seedlings or seeds in belt or block plantings, at a density that will allow them to achieve 'forest cover'. This means that trees must have the potential to grow to at least two metres tall and reach a crown cover of at least 20 per cent of the area.</p> <p>For permanent plantings, once the planting is established, it must be maintained in such a way that the trees can reach and maintain crown cover. For harvest projects, you must propose a specific management regime, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• planting</li> <li>• weed control</li> <li>• harvesting</li> <li>• debris removal, and rotation length (i.e., the length of time between planting and harvesting).</li> </ul> <p>In general, project trees must not be removed once established, with the main exception being for harvest if you choose to run a harvest project. Removal of project trees is only permitted in those circumstances listed in Sections 4.4 and 4.7 of the method, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• taking samples to calculate the amount of carbon stored, or</li> <li>• managing natural disturbances, such as flood, fire, drought, or disease.</li> </ul> <p>In certain circumstances, a permanent planting project may be changed to a harvest project, but harvest projects cannot be changed to permanent planting projects.</p>
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any non-project trees, such as native forest, must not be removed from the project area, except in certain circumstances. For example, removal of non-project trees as required or authorised by law may be carried out in accordance with the relevant law.</li> <li>• Trees that can be removed include prescribed weeds, and non-native forest trees that are less than 2 metres tall when the project begins.</li> </ul>
How is abatement calculated	<p>Abatement is calculated in each reporting period by subtracting emissions from fuel use and fires from the amount of carbon stored in the project trees (called the 'carbon stock').</p> <p>The carbon stock is estimated by combining FullCAM modelling with physical measurements of project trees (e.g., stem diameter, tree height or crown dimensions), taken during a 'carbon inventory'. Project trees can be either living or dead, and can also be fire-affected, but must be standing. You can also count the carbon stored in forest litter and fallen dead wood, but this is optional.</p> <p>For harvest plantations only, FullCAM is also used to predict the project's average carbon stocks in each stratum and the project as a whole for the reporting period. Refer to <a href="#">A guide to the 2020 FullCAM – transition arrangements</a> for information on which version of FullCAM must be used for your project.</p>
Reporting requirements	<p>The method sets out method-specific requirements for offsets subsequent reports. All reports must contain information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• project type and management regime</li> <li>• strata locations and descriptions</li> <li>• sampling plans</li> <li>• emissions, carbon stocks and abatement calculations</li> <li>• FullCAM modelling and allometric functions</li> <li>• growth disturbances</li> <li>• fuel use, and</li> <li>• quality assurance and control measures.</li> </ul>

	<p>In addition, your first report must contain information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the history of land use and forest cover, and</li> <li>• descriptions of the project area and strata.</li> </ul>
Monitoring requirements	<p>The method sets out the following specific monitoring requirements.</p> <p>Project areas can be monitored using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on-ground inspections and surveys, and</li> <li>• remote monitoring, such as interpretation of aerial or satellite imagery.</li> </ul> <p>Any changes or disturbances should also be monitored, to ensure that project trees have reached or have the potential to reach the height and crown cover requirements.</p>
Record-keeping requirements	<p>The method describes record-keeping requirements related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strata descriptions, locations, and area</li> <li>• sampling plans</li> <li>• project tree measures and allometric functions</li> <li>• carbon stock calculations</li> <li>• fuel use, and</li> <li>• quality assurance and control measures.</li> </ul>
Audits	<p>All projects receive an audit schedule when the project is declared and must provide audit reports according to this schedule. A minimum of three audits will be scheduled and additional audits may be triggered.</p> <p>An initial audit report must be submitted with the first report for your project.</p>
Specialist skills	<p>Specialist skills will be required to carry out the project with the method. You will require access to forestry expertise – either your own or from external sources – to run the measurements and calculations.</p>

### Estimating soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models method

Crediting period	<p>Twenty-five years – The crediting period is the period of time a project can apply to claim Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs).</p>
Eligibility requirements	<p>There are general eligibility requirements in the Act, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">newness</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Regulatory additionality and funding from other government programs</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">legal right</a>.</li> </ul>

	<p>Projects must include 'eligible land' that has been used for pasture, cropping (including perennial woody horticulture), bare fallow, or any combination of these for the previous 5 years.</p> <p>A land management strategy must be prepared or reviewed by an independent person—advising on what management activities are best suited to the site, including information on risks, monitoring, and improvements.</p>
Project activities	<p>A project involves introducing one or more new or materially different management activities in grazing, bare fallow or cropping land that store carbon in that land.</p> <p>Soil carbon stocks must be estimated using specified soil sampling methods (<i>measurement only approach</i>) or using the specified <i>hybrid approach</i> that combines soil carbon model estimates with soil sampling.</p> <p>Projects must introduce one or more of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apply nutrients to the land</li> <li>• apply lime to remediate acid soils</li> <li>• apply gypsum to remediate sodic or magnesian soils</li> <li>• undertake new irrigation</li> <li>• re-establish or rejuvenate a pasture by seeding establishing or pasture cropping</li> <li>• establishing, and permanently maintaining, a pasture where there was previously no or limited pasture, such as on cropland or bare fallow</li> <li>• alter the stocking rate, duration, or intensity of grazing</li> <li>• retain stubble after a crop is harvested</li> <li>• convert from intensive tillage practices to reduced or no tillage practices</li> <li>• modify landscape or landform features to remediate land</li> <li>• use mechanical methods to add or redistribute soil</li> <li>• use legume species in cropping or pasture system, or</li> <li>• use a cover crop to promote soil vegetation cover or improve soil health or both.</li> </ul>
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any land within the project area that is not used for agricultural purposes will need to be excluded</li> <li>• Land is ineligible if it was forest land which was cleared at any point during the baseline period (5 years)</li> <li>• Prohibited activities include destocking of land (except in particular circumstances) and application of pyrolysed material that is not biochar.</li> <li>• Thinning and clearing of woody vegetation are restricted activities.</li> </ul>
Soil sampling	<p>Soil sampling is used in both the <i>measurement only approach</i> to measure soil carbon stocks and in the <i>hybrid approach</i> to validate the model used to estimate soil carbon stocks.</p> <p>Under the <i>measurement only approach</i> baseline sampling round must be undertaken in the first reporting period for new projects, or within 18 months of land being added to an existing project area.</p> <p>Baseline sampling can calculate a model-assisted estimate under the <i>hybrid approach</i>.</p> <p>The <i>measurement-only approaches</i> require that a sampling round be conducted in every reporting period.</p>

	<p>The <i>hybrid approach</i> requires that sampling rounds occur every 10 years and estimation events occur every 5 years.</p> <p>Each carbon estimation area must be divided into at least three strata (subdivisions), and at least three soil cores must be taken from each strata.</p>
How is abatement calculated	<p>Abatement is calculated by subtracting emissions caused by additional activities used to build soil carbon (for example extra fertiliser applications beyond the baseline) from the increase in soil carbon</p> <p>To reduce the risk of overestimation and over-crediting, a temporary discount to increases in soil carbon stocks is applied after the second sampling round. Withheld credits are refunded if soil carbon stock increases are maintained after the third sampling round.</p>
Reporting requirements	<p>Proponents can generally nominate the intervals of their reporting periods from one year to a maximum of five years.</p> <p>Statements must be provided from the proponent and the independent person responsible for sampling verifying, respectively, that the abatement is genuine, and the soil carbon estimate is accurate.</p>
Monitoring and record-keeping requirements	<p>In addition to the general requirements for all Emissions Reduction Fund projects, proponents participating under this method must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• notify the Clean Energy Regulator of events that change the management activities, sampling locations or land management strategy prior to each sampling round</li> <li>• keep records relating to land management activities, the independent person involved in a sampling, and the project's land management strategy and other compliance requirements, and</li> <li>• monitor livestock details in the project, tillage, harvested product, removed crop residues as well as inputs of fertiliser, biochar, lime, electricity, and fuel.</li> </ul>
Audits	<p>All projects receive an audit schedule when the project is declared and must provide audit reports according to this schedule. At least 3 audits are required over the 25-year crediting period. The first audit is due with your first project report.</p> <p>An initial audit report must be submitted with the first report for your project.</p>
Specialist skills	<p>Specialist skills will be required to carry out the project with the method. You will require access to soil sampling technicians and laboratory analysis to run the measurements and calculations.</p> <p>For the <i>hybrid approach</i>, to ensure the required level of accuracy of soil carbon model estimates it may be necessary to seek assistance from a technical expert.</p>

## Appendix B: Eligible Activities

Items in this Appendix are considered eligible for CF-LRP funding requests.

Any budget item not covered in this Appendix, or is listed in section 6.7 (ineligible activities) will be considered at the assessor's discretion.

### Advice and project planning

Funding can be used to engage the services of advisers or consultants who can help interpret or better understand technical information. Services could include financial, agricultural advice, support from an agronomist or ecologist for project design (e.g., site survey or planting plan), or details about carbon farming including the regulatory framework.

Projects that include the development of a plan (e.g., site plan or project management plan) should clearly indicate how the plan will be used in future management of the area and how it will contribute to decision making. It is expected that any plans funded through the CF-LRP would be cited through the Program's reporting process.

### On-ground activities

#### Soil carbon

Eligible soil carbon activities include:

- Soil testing (sample extraction and analysis)
- Soil preparation and/or amelioration
- Purchase of pasture and/or legume seed
- Carbon estimation assessment (e.g., development of model to predict changes in soil organic carbon)
- Stratification of Carbon Estimation Areas
- Production valuation (verify improvement in pasture, fodder, etc.)
- Assessment of soil health indicators

#### Revegetation

Eligible revegetation activities include:

- Site preparation
- Purchase of endemic seed and/or seedlings
- Planting of vegetation by machine or hand
- Machinery hire (specialised equipment only)
- Native vegetation protection activities (fencing, tree guards, etc.)
- Invasive species (weed and pest) management
- Ecological assessments (including resource condition assessment, fauna or vegetation surveys and mapping, water quality surveys, plant survival surveys).
- Fire risk mitigation activities

Things to consider in your application:

- Funds cannot be used to pay the landholder for site preparation or planting. Where landholders can conduct this work, it is considered an in-kind contribution.

General guidelines for revegetation activities:

- Endemic species, sourced from provenance seed sources are preferred
- Revegetation should aim to reflect the local vegetation matched to soil type

- Plantings designed to achieve specific habitat or vegetation values should be based on species selection to match the objective of the planting.
- Seedling (tube stock) protection is recommended where necessary
- Revegetation must be fenced to exclude stock where relevant
- Watering is typically considered an in-kind contribution unless justified.

Note: A [Revegetation for Carbon Sequestration Factsheet](#) may assist project planning.

## Fencing

Fencing can help protect carbon stores, remnant vegetation, waterways, and establish connectivity between areas. Things to consider in your application:

- Fencing to protect new plantings or remnant vegetation must be stock and native animal proof.
- Funds may be used to employ a fencing contractor and for materials.

## Knowledge sharing

Funding can be used to disseminate the experience and learnings gained from the project to other groups or individuals so they can benefit from the information. These funds can be used to develop, improve and/or deliver the following activities:

- events such as workshops, field trips, citizen science, peer-to peer learning
- information materials such as booklets, brochures, websites
- skills development and training programs including Aboriginal Ranger Group training.

## Monitoring and auditing

The level of monitoring should be consistent with the size and scope of the project.

Some important points to consider when preparing your application:

- DPIRD's [CF-LRP Co-benefits Standard 2022-23](#) provides recommendations for co-benefit monitoring and reporting
- An initial audit report must be submitted with your project's Clean Energy Regulator offsets report. For more information see: <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Infohub/Audits/audits>
- Consider the cost of auditing and reporting when planning your project
- Basic monitoring activities (such as fixed-point photo monitoring and drone photography) are generally considered an in-kind contribution or should be included in any coordination expenses
- Purchase of equipment for monitoring (such as remote sensing cameras) may be considered for funding
- If your project is designed to improve the conservation values for fauna or flora species (habitat, etc.), establish monitoring methods that will practically measure these values.

## Important disclaimer

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