Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Carbon Farming Plan Guidance

Contents

1. Background

Round 2 of the Western Australian Government's Carbon for Farmers Voucher Program (CF-VP) supports the development of Carbon Farming Plans.

A Carbon Farming Plan helps farmers assess the feasibility of a carbon farming project, how it fits into their business operations, and identifies costs and returns, ongoing management obligations, and risks. It outlines technical aspects of a project for registration with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER).

Carbon Farming Plans are specific to a property and the landholder's needs and circumstances. They should be developed collaboratively using the farmer's knowledge of their land and business and the expertise of service providers and other consultants.

For the purposes of this document, a carbon farming project delivers carbon sequestration not emissions avoidance or a carbon account or carbon footprint calculation.

This Guidance should be used in conjunction with the CF-VP Guidelines and further assistance can be found within the **Carbon Farming Plan Guidance – Soil Carbon Methods** and **Carbon Farming Plan Guidance - Reforestation**

Using this document

This Guidance has been developed to help farmers have informed discussions when planning and assessing the feasibility of a carbon farming project.

While the information is not exhaustive it covers a range of topics to consider when planning a project and meeting with experts or anyone with an interest in the project or the land (e.g., family, banks).

Service providers may also find this document useful when working with farmers.

Links and references to additional information have been provided throughout.

This Guidance document incudes:

1. **Things to consider first** - before starting a Carbon Farming Plan.
2. **Development of a Carbon Farming Plan** – considerations and inclusions
3. **Project activities and on-going management** – information regarding the implementation and ongoing management of a project
4. **After completing the Carbon Farming Plan** - links to additional Resources.

Just getting started exploring carbon farming?

- **Key Steps: Establishing a Carbon Farming Project**
- **Want to participate in the ACCU Scheme?**
- **The Carbon Farming Foundation's Education Hub**

Disclaimer – links within this document

The links provided within this document are provided for your convenience. DPIRD accepts no liability by reason of negligence arising from the use of this information.

2. Things to consider before you begin.

Things to consider when thinking about undertaking a carbon farming project.

☐ Working with professional service providers
☐ Carbon Service providers and project developers
☐ Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct
☐ Financial advice – carbon prices and market information
☐ What to do with your carbon credits
☐ Taxation of ACCUs for primary producers
☐ Project development models
☐ ACCU Scheme and project methods
☐ Eligible interest holder consent
☐ Permanence periods
☐ Risk of reversal buffer
☐ Reducing the risk of fire

2.1 Working with professional Service Providers

DPIRD has developed a Service Provider Directory to help identify several types of local providers. The directory is not exhaustive and is updated regularly. Service provider(s) not listed in this directory can be engaged.

Farmers should undertake their own due diligence when selecting a provider. To assist, suggested qualifications to expect and questions to ask when contracting a service provider have been included in the Service Provider Directory.

Farmers should also seek several quotes before engaging a service provider, taking into consideration their experience and referrals.

When developing a Carbon Farming Plan, or implementing and managing a carbon project, farmers may need support from carbon service providers, agronomists, environmental, financial, legal, or other specialists.

2.1.1 Carbon Service Providers and project developers

Carbon Service Providers are private businesses, independent of government, who assist farmers and land managers participate in carbon farming. The type of provider required will depend on factors including but not limited to, the type of carbon farming project being considered (soil or one of several vegetation types), farm business structure, your understanding of carbon farming, and the project/property size and location.

The CER has information to consider when working with or entering into agreements with carbon service providers or project developers, click here to view this information.

2.1.2 The Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct

The Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct (Code) is a voluntary Code that provides performance standards that Code Signatories must abide by. The Code is administered by the Carbon Market Institute.

Service providers developing Carbon Farming Plans do not need to be a signatory to the Code, however the Code provides guidance on the type of services that should be delivered by a carbon service professional.

Further information on the Code can be found in this document at Appendix A – Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct. The Western Australian Government is a Partner to the Code.

2.1.3 Financial advice - carbon prices and market information

Any service providers offering financial advice should hold an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL). Those that do not hold an AFSL are strictly limited in the type of financial advice they can provide, which includes future carbon price and market trends. Further information can be found here in this document.

2.2 What to do with your Australian carbon credit units

Farmers should consider the options available for the Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) generated by their project. Farmers need to decide whether to hold them as an asset, sell them into the secondary market (offset), use them to cancel their on-farm emissions, or a combination of these.

In addition to Australia's ACCU Scheme[1], it is possible to generate carbon credits through other schemes such as Verra (formerly Verified Carbon Standard) or Gold Standard. Methods under these schemes are not eligible for the CF-LRP or the CF-VP.

2.3 Taxation of ACCUs for primary producers

Eligible individual primary producers can now treat eligible income from their carbon farming projects as primary production income. They may also qualify for concessional tax treatment for ACCUs they receive from eligible carbon projects. This change may benefit eligible individual primary producers by diversifying their income by generating and selling ACCUs.

Information on taxation on ACCUs can be found here.

2.4 Project development models

There are several carbon farming project development models, each with different costs, benefits, and risks over the project's lifecycle.

[1] The Emissions Reduction Fund is now referred to as 'the ACCU Scheme'

To gain a balanced understanding of the models, a farmer should talk to different providers to determine their suitability.

Examples of models:

1. **Do it yourself and hire services to assist on a fee-for-service basis**.
    - Suitable for farmers with the skills and capacity to commit to a carbon farming project and its reporting obligations.
    - Carbon project services are engaged on an “as needs” or fee for service basis.
    - No formal partnership exists between landholder and project service provider or developer.
    - The landowner retains all ACCUs generated by the project and the risk.
    - In this model, the landowner is the project proponent.
2. **Project service provider (or agent).**
    - People who want control of their carbon farming project but do not have the skills or capacity will often use a project service provider model.
    - As the project proponent, the farmer partners with the carbon service provider in exchange for an agreed percentage of the ACCUs. As a result, the service provider will manage the project’s regulatory obligations and agreed financial matters.
    - This ACCU sharing arrangement will depend on how the project is managed and who carries the risk.
    - In this model, the landowner is the project proponent.
3. **Aggregation model**
    - An aggregator is a project developer who manages the project and works with a group of landholders.
    - ACCUs are distributed according to a legal arrangement and the volume of ACCUs generated by each landholding.
    - In this model, the project developer/aggregator is the project owner and proponent and typically takes full control of project development, management, and sale of carbon credits. Risk should be carried by the aggregator.

More information on aggregation can be found here.

3. ACCU Scheme and project methods

Australia's ACCU Scheme identifies the methods eligible for being issued with carbon credits or ACCUs. For more information:

- Vegetation method factsheet
- Soil carbon measurement and analysis factsheet

Carbon service providers should discuss the requirements specific to the method(s) that apply to your project and the broader requirements on the scheme such as:

- Project registration, including eligibility criteria.
- Eligible interest holder consent
- Establishing 'legal right'
- Reporting periods
- Offsets reports
- Audits
- Record keeping

3.1 Eligible interest holder consent

An eligible interest holder under the ACCU Scheme is a person or organisation that has a specific legal interest in the land on which a project will be conducted.

The number and type of eligible interest holders will vary depending on the nature of the land title and project type but will generally include those persons or organisations listed on land titles as having an interest in the property. These persons and organisations may include financial institutions that hold a mortgage over the land.

The project proponent needs to prove they have the legal right to conduct the project. See more here about legal right.

Farmers should also consider any federal, state and local government policies and restrictions on the percentage of land able to be planted in a carbon project. Approvals may also need to be sought for ground and surface water drainage activities. Farmers must also understand the impact that any existing covenants or other encumbrances on titles may have on a potential carbon farming project.

3.2 Permanence periods

Understanding the requirements to maintain sequestered carbon is an important factor to consider in the planning and maintenance of a sequestration project.

Projects under the ACCU Scheme require proponents to choose a permanence period of either 25 or 100 years for sequestration projects. Once you have nominated a permanence period, you will not be able to vary that period.

The permanence period starts on the date ACCUs are first issued to a project.

All projects registered with the ACCU Scheme must detail how they will protect the carbon sequestered and credited by providing a permanence plan, this link takes you to guidance contained in this document or for more information click here.

3.3 Risk of reversal buffer

The risk of reversal buffer applies to all sequestration projects and reduces the carbon abatement issued during a reporting period:

- There is a five per cent risk of reversal buffer on all sequestration projects.
- Sequestration is regarded as permanent if it is maintained on a net basis for 100 years.
- Under the 25 year permanence period, there is an additional 20 per cent reduction in the number of ACCUs issued to a project. This is to cover the potential cost to the Australian Government of replacing carbon stores after the project ends (Total reduction of 25 per cent)
- Proponents choosing a 100 year permanence period will only be subject to a 5 per cent reduction in the number of ACCUs issued.

The risk of reversal buffer does not insure participants against loss of income from the sale of ACCUs following fire or other natural disturbance or for the costs of re-establishing carbon stores.

3.4 Reducing the risk of fire

An important issue for sequestration projects is the consideration of and mitigation strategies to reduce fire risk in project areas. The CER's factsheet can help you consider fire management: Reducing the risk of fire and preserving sequestered carbon in ACCU Scheme vegetation projects.

4. Developing a Carbon Farming Plan

The lead service provider should meet with the farmer at least three times in-person while developing the Carbon Farming Plan: prior to starting, then to discuss the DRAFT plan to ensure it is on target, and then for the final handover. This is about a long-term partnership, and this is an essential step in that relationship.

A detailed Carbon Farming Plan document is provided for the *Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings—FullCAM* method and *Estimating soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models* method.

A Carbon Farming Plan should include:

☐ Executive summary

☐ Spatial analysis

☐ Carbon estimation area

☐ Baseline land management activities

☐ Newness and Additionality

☐ Excluded and Restricted Activity Statement

☐ Estimating carbon sequestration potential (Forward Abatement Estimate)

☐ Carbon Estimation Tools

☐ Cost benefit analysis

☐ Monitoring and evaluation

☐ Risk assessment

☐ Permanence and permanence plans

☐ Co-benefits

☐ Qualified person statement

4.1 Executive summary

Typically the executive summary should contain the following:

- An overview of the farm business and the project(s) to be undertaken.
- A summary of the project describing the high-level objectives, such as:
    - Goals for the project (environmental, business)
    - Overview of the farm (location, current farming activities e.g., broad acre cropping, livestock only, mixed farming, horticulture etc)

4.2 Spatial analysis

If a farmer is seeking advice specifically about carbon, agronomy or revegetation, their service providers will likely undertake some form of spatial assessment as part of this analysis. Farmers should discuss a provider's requirements for data either when sourcing a quote, or at the early stages of a Carbon Farming Plan.

Vegetation and soil types are likely to be analysed spatially, and this data should be provided in a useable format i) within the Carbon Farming Plan, and ii) to the farmer as part of the handover of the plan.

Service providers may ask farmers to provide property specific information such as yield, soil, hydrology, rainfall input/return and a range of other potential data sources as part of the analysis. Farmers are encouraged to provide this information in a timely manner so the service provider can analyse and incorporate the findings into the Carbon Farming Plan.

The CER provides information and templates for mapping requirements and mapping guidelines.

4.3 Carbon estimation areas

Within a project area, which can be one or more properties and over several land titles, the carbon estimation areas (CEAs) are where the project's carbon sequestration activities are undertaken for which ACCUs are issued. More information can be found here.

CEAs and the project area should be mapped for the spatial analysis and understanding of the project's feasibility.

4.4 Baseline land management activities

The baseline period accounts for the years prior to registration of a project. A Carbon Farming Plan should identify what the land has been used for in the previous 5 years. This indicates eligibility and what new activities could be initiated to increase soil organic carbon or carbon stored in vegetation.
The *Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings* and Soil Carbon methods require that project areas to have been clear of forest for at least 5 years. The Plantation forestry method requires project areas to be clear of forest for the previous 7 years.

4.5 Newness and additionality

There are many eligibility criteria that need to be met before a project can receive ACCUs. This includes:

- Newness - activities cannot start until the project is registered with the CER.
- Additionality – beyond business as usual; materially different activities.

A carbon farming plan should provide technical and operational information on the planned new land management activities planned for the soil carbon project including:

- the type of new, materially different activity/s planned
- location and size of the activities (use maps as appropriate)
- timing and frequency of the activity (e.g., every season, every two years, with annual cropping rotation, etc)

- identify how and to what extent the proposed eligible activity is materially different (additional) to the activities conducted in the baseline period
- identify how and to what extent the proposed new eligible management activities will increase carbon above the baseline
- estimate carbon emissions from implementing and managing project activities.

Eligible activities for Soil projects can be found here and vegetation project activities here.

4.6 Excluded and restricted activity statement

Each ACCU Scheme has activities that are not to be conducted or are to be restricted.

- Vegetation projects - Include a statement confirming that activities which are restricted will not be conducted.
- Soil projects - Include a statement confirming that activities which are restricted will not be conducted - see section 12 of this Explanatory Statement for restricted activities.

4.7 Estimating carbon sequestration potential (Forward Abatement Estimate)

When providing estimates of carbon credit generation, a provider should disclose:

- assumptions made.
- the source or method used to calculate estimates.
- risks and uncertainties inherent in those assumptions.

In providing estimates on carbon credit generation, a provider should account for and disclose the impact of applicable abatement buffers or discounts which may reduce the number of carbon credits that can be claimed based on the net abatement achieved by the project. Farmers may want to work with providers to have forward carbon abatement estimates presents as a range of scenarios these could include but are not limited to:

- Potential sequestration per carbon estimation area (expressed as tonnes of Co2-e / year) in low, moderate and high scenarios.
- Potential sequestration per carbon estimation area (expressed as tonnes of Co2-e) in low, moderate and high scenarios over the life of the project.

4.7.1 Carbon Estimation tools

There are an increasing number of tools available to estimate the carbon sequestration potential of your project. It is recommended that farmers use the expertise of a carbon service provider or other experts to map and interpret carbon sequestration potential. Refer to Resources - Carbon Farming Project Planning for more information.

4.8 Cost Benefit Analysis

Service providers should base any feasibility advice given to a farmer about a carbon farming project on the:

1. individual farmer's personal and business circumstances and business objectives.
2. requirements of the project method:

- cost estimates for the establishment of the project, initial account, reporting and ongoing maintenance.
- 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.
- cost/benefit analysis that includes the Net Present Value of the projected returns after 25 years.

4.9 Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of a carbon farming project is important:

- to ensure the project can deliver the proposed activities and outcomes;
- continues to deliver co-benefits;
- meets contractual arrangements; and
- to remain a viable, financial concern.

A Carbon Farming Plan should include a detailed monitoring and evaluation section.

4.10 Risk Assessment

Your Carbon Farming Plan should identify potential risks to the delivery of your project, the probability of those risks eventuating, and the mitigation actions that you will implement.

Carbon Farming Plans should include information on the risk mitigation activities planned to protect and maintain the carbon stocks credited to the project for the permanence period (e.g., fire, drought or flood risk mitigation, poor establishment, weed and pest control, restrictions on grazing).

Risks presented in a table, that are ranked against a risk matrix and are assessed against guidance tables can be used to assess risk, consequence, likelihood and an evaluation of risk acceptance. 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.

Farmers will need to assess the risk profile of their project and make decisions on what they are prepared to accept and manage over the life of their project given their resources.

Consider any potential negative environmental, community, or economic impacts that may be caused by your project (e.g., adverse impacts on neighbouring properties).

4.11 Permanence and permanence plans

Projects under the ACCU Scheme need to nominate a permanence period of either 25 or 100 years for sequestration projects. A permanence plan should explain the steps that will be undertaken to ensure carbon remains stored in the project area for the permanence obligation period.

Carbon Farming Plans should identify any key information (such as risks and management actions) that should be included in a permanence plan should a project become registered with the ACCU Scheme or through another program.

4.12 Co-benefits

Co-benefits are the additional, positive outcomes for a carbon farming project that add value to the carbon sequestered. It is widely recognised that carbon projects may deliver environmental, economic and social co-benefits.

Co-benefits also help differentiate and add commercial value to a project where the co-benefits can be verified.

Farmers should draw on their on-farm data to benchmark or substantiate existing co-benefits, and to monitor changes in co-benefits. Service providers should work with farmers to develop a co-benefit monitoring plan to identify the goals, data sources, and timeframes for measuring co-benefits.

Co-benefits as they relate to carbon farming may include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural productivity
- Soil health
- Water quality including salinity management.
- Biodiversity and conservation
- Aboriginal business development and cultural connection
- Community co-benefits e.g., provide regional commercial opportunities and employment.

Some additional resources can be found in the CF-LRP's Co-benefits Standard

4.13 Qualified person statement

A Carbon Farming Plan must include a declaration from the person(s) who prepared it and should contain the following:

- Business Name
- ABN/CAN
- Address
- Phone
- Email
- Qualifications
- Experience
- Professional Memberships
- Acknowledgement of having no financial interest in the project.

5. Project activities and on-going management

This section covers area that align with the requirements to register, implement, and manage projects under the ACCU Scheme. Farmers considering running a project under another type of scheme will need to refer to the requirements for that scheme.

This section covers:

- ☐ Project activities
- ☐ Offsets reporting and audits.
- ☐ Record keeping
- ☐ Consultation with stakeholders
- ☐ Compliance

5.1 Project activities

The vegetation and soil methods under the ACCU Scheme have project activities that are allowed under the method. More information of the requirements and types of activities for each method can be found here Vegetation, Soil and Agroforestry.

It should be noted that a forest management plan is required for the Plantation forestry method. The CER provide Guidance on forest management plans.

Depending on your skills and previous experience you may wish to develop a workplan for your carbon farming project to identify what is required to implement project activities.

5.2 Offsets reporting and audits

Farmer should work with their provider(s) to understand the offset reporting requirements under the ACCU Scheme method. The CER provides further information on reporting and audits here.

5.3 Record keeping

Farmers are encouraged to understand the record keeping requirements for the chosen method(s) at the planning stage so they can keep the necessary data over the life of the project. Farmers should ask providers for a summary of the information and records that will be required for reporting and audit purposes.

CER record keeping requirements:

- Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings (FullCAM method)
- Estimating soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models method
- Measurement based methods for new farm forestry plantations method (agroforestry)

5.4 Consultation with stakeholders

- Farmers and service providers should consult with the relevant natural resource management body and any traditional owners.

- The Australia Carbon Industry Code of Conduct outlines the requirements for consultation for projects that occur on native title land.
- When engaging with Traditional Owners and their representative bodies, providers should consider cultural contexts, as outlined in Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) guidance, including but not limited to significant cultural events and Sorry Business that may impact on timeframes for engaging and seeking consents.

5.5 Compliance

Compliance with law

Service providers must comply with all local, state and federal legislation including but not limited to:

i) the CFI Act which is supported by the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011* and *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015*;

ii) the relevant ACCU Scheme method;

iii) regulatory guidance provided on the Clean Energy Regulator's website;

iv) Schedule 2 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth);

v) the Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) requirements under the Corporations Act, including general obligations for a financial services licensee under s 912A of the Corporations Act; and

vi) the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Requirement to hold an Australian Financial Services License

If a carbon service provider is providing financial service advice, they should hold an AFSL issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

- Providers understand that ACCUs are a financial product, and therefore financial services activities relating to ACCUs are regulated under the Corporations Act.
- Providers understand that providing financial services regarding ACCUs and other carbon credits may require an AFSL.
- Providers must undertake appropriate due diligence to determine whether an AFSL is required for their business activities. In determining whether an AFSL is required, Providers must consider:

    i) the requirements of the Corporations Act; and

    ii) ASIC Regulatory Guide 236: Do I need an AFS licence to participate in carbon markets.

In dealing with and providing advice regarding ACCUs and other carbon credits, Providers will have regard to the Australian Financial Markets Association Code of Conduct.

6. After completing a Carbon Farming Plan

This section discusses some of the additional factors a farmer may want to consider after completing a Carbon Farming Plan.

Farmers may need time to review and discuss the plan with any of their business partners and eligible interest holders, or to seek additional further advice.

Undertaking a carbon sequestration project is a long-term commitment that needs sound planning and consideration of several factors.

6.1 What do I need to do to apply for the CF-LRP?

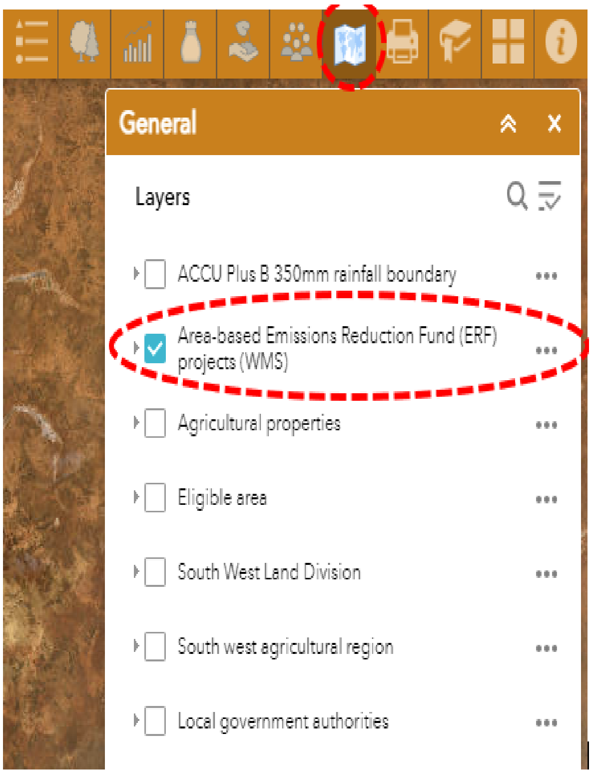
The Carbon Farming Plan will help you apply to future rounds of the CF-LRP. If you would like to keep up to date with future rounds of CF-LRP please subscribe to email updates here.

6.2 Peer to peer learning

Farmers may want to discuss carbon farming with other landholders who have implemented carbon farming projects.

Local grower groups and industry groups may be a source of information for what local carbon farming initiatives are happening in your area.

A map of registered projects in WA can be found in DPIRD's GIS portal. Under the 'General Tab', there is a layer for ACCU Scheme registered projects. This information is sourced directly from the CER



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6.3 Information to consider when engaging a carbon service provider

Written agreement with farmer/client

The provider's agreement with the farmer/client should:

- be in writing; and
- be expressed in a clear and transparent way, using language that is linguistically and culturally appropriate for the audience and their level of maturity in the carbon market; and
- if the provider takes on the role of project proponent under the ACCU Scheme, the written agreement between the provider and farmer/client should provide for orderly succession of project proponent, consistent with the environmental and social integrity of the scheme and with the relevant laws.

Recommending independent legal and financial advice

- Providers should disclose to the farmer/client if they have any financial interest in the project.
- Providers should recommend to the farmer/client that the farmer/client obtains independent legal and/or financial advice.

Providing farmers / clients with a copy of the Code of Conduct Fact Sheet

If a carbon service provider is a Signatory to the Code, farmers / clients must be given a fact sheet describing this Code and including the process for providing feedback and lodging Complaints.

For more information see the Carbon Market Institute website.

6.4 Registering a project with the CER

To register a project with the ACCU Scheme, an applicant will need to provide information that can be found within this form.

This information included alignment of a carbon farming project with natural resource management objectives. Projects to be registered with the ACCU Scheme need to identify in the Carbon Farming Plan how their project aligns and is consistent with their regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan. To find your local NRM use this map.

6.5 How a Carbon Farming Plan helps when registering

This document provides guidance on what to discuss with a carbon service provider, particularly registering a project(s) with the CER and its ongoing managing. Most Australian carbon farming projects are registered under the ACCU Scheme. Other schemes (Verra, Gold Standard) are not covered in this document.

This Guidance document discusses many of the areas that a carbon farming project to be registered under the ACCU Scheme will need to cover. At present, the CER requires soil carbon projects owners to provide a LMS during the registration stage. A Carbon Farming Plan should provide the key content for a LMS.

The use of the term Carbon Farming Plan instead of LMS for the purpose of the CF-VP is to reduce confusion with the CER's requirements for an LMS. This change was based on feedback from industry.

The CER will be introducing a new Integrated Farm Management Method (IFMM). This method will allow farmers with projects registered under this method to 'stack' activities under the one project on landholding less than 20,000ha. The CER currently registers each project using the relevant method type. The IFMM will allow the stacking of current CER methods thereby allowing farmers to implement holistic farm management to reduce emissions and sequester carbon. The IFFM should lead to reduced administration and reporting costs.

Existing projects registered with the CER will be able to transition to the IFFM. There is currently no official release date for the IFMM. For further details on IFMM and other news from the CER, it is suggested that farmers subscribe to the CER updates.

Farmers may wish to discuss the opportunities for their property of a 'stacked' project using different methods when developing a Carbon Farming Plan.

The requirements for a LMS or equivalent document under IFMM is not yet known but is assumed to remain the same.

The content of a Carbon Farming Plan that considers the specifics for allowable activities under current CER methods, alongside other key content as described in this Guidance document should meet the requirements for a strategy under IFMM.

Appendix A - Australia Carbon Industry Code of Conduct

The Australia Carbon Industry Code of Conduct (Code) is a non-prescribed and voluntary code of practice that promotes market integrity, consumer protection and appropriate engagement between carbon service providers and farmers. The Code sets general rules and standards that must be complied with by Signatories when they operate in the carbon market.

The Code supports clients of Signatories, including farmers and a range of landowners, to identify industry participants that are committed to industry best practice. The Code also has a range of pathways available for farmers or any stakeholders to raise issues, including complaints about a Signatory service provider, either directly with a Signatory or with the Code Administrator or other relevant consumer protection bodies.

The Code is only applicable to carbon industry participants (which can include any type of carbon service provider or advisor in the market) that sign up to the Code. Service providers who are Code Signatories, are responsible for a complying with their obligations and requirements under the Code, including conducting their business in line with industry best practice and engaging with their clients in a professional and ethical manner. Code Signatories are audited annually on their performance in the market and by engaging a Code Signatory, a farmer or landholder can be more confident they will receive a higher standard of service.

The CER also supports the Code to enhance the regulation of carbon service providers and build confidence in the carbon industry, including protecting the interests of farmers and landholders. The CER has also flagged it may consider a provider's Code signatory status when evaluating whether a provider is 'fit and proper' to be a proponent for a project. The CER has its own guidelines for carbon service providers that overlaps with key Code commitments - the CER guidance signals a minimum standard of expected performance and covers areas such as:

- not engaging in false, misleading or inappropriate behaviour.
- providing clear, fair and appropriate contract terms.
- providing timely transfer of payments of ACCUs.
- ensuring good systems and processes are in place for meeting reporting, monitoring and record keeping requirements.
- ensuring they remain current on the legal obligations of participation.
- being honest and proactive in communicating issues with the agency.

Disclaimer - Service Provider Directory

DPIRD does not endorse the suppliers listed in its Service Provider Directory. Service providers have nominated themselves for inclusion in this Directory. DPIRD has not fully assessed or verified the businesses' ability to provide the service categories listed.

Applicants must make their own assessment with respect to the relevance, appropriateness, and suitability of the Service providers they wish to use.

Neither DPIRD nor the State will be deemed to be a party to any service agreement entered into. The use of any Service Provider is at the risk of the applicant and DPIRD accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the service provided. DPIRD accepts no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Farmers should undertake their own due diligence by checking the credentials of service providers.