



An overview of carbon farming

Carbon farming can provide opportunities to restore Country and get paid for it. Carbon farming refers to land management activities that remove carbon emissions in the atmosphere by either storing carbon in soil or vegetation (sequestration) or by avoiding greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere (emissions avoidance). The national standard for developing carbon projects in Australia is the Australian Carbon Credit Union Scheme (ACCU Scheme), administered by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER). The ACCU Scheme rewards land managers and organisations for adopting new practices that generate carbon credits. One ACCU is generated for each tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) avoided or sequestered. Carbon farming projects need to be registered under an approved method that explains how to carry out a project and measure the emissions being reduced. Projects must be registered before they can start. Visit looc-c.farm to quickly assess which ACCU Scheme methods might be right for your land and get an estimate of carbon potential based on project size, land condition, and method.

Some terms that will help you understand carbon sequestration methods are:



Forest cover

land with forest covering of at least 0.2 hectares which is dominated by trees of at least two metres tall and with a crown cover of 20% or more.



Agricultural land

land used for pasture, cropping (including woody perennial horticulture) or bare fallow (land uncropped for one or more seasons).



Saltwater coastal wetlands

supratidal forests, saltmarshes, mangroves, sparsely vegetated saltmarshes (salt flats) and seagrasses.





Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings

Establishing a native forest by planting or seeding. Depending on the rainfall and region you can use:

- mix of trees, shrubs and understory native plants to the area, or
- mallee eucalyptus (<600mm annual rainfall).

Where: land clear of forest cover for at least 5 years



Reforestation and afforestation

Planting forest trees on land used for agriculture on areas that have not been cleared of native forest and that are able to support a new forest.

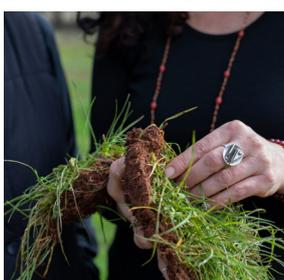
Where: agricultural land for at least 5 years



Tidal restoration of blue carbon ecosystems (coastal wetlands)

Rewetting coastal areas that were once wetlands, to restore saltmarshes, mangroves, salt flats and seagrasses. This includes removing a tidal restriction like a sea wall.

Where: coastal land with a tidal barrier for at least 7 years



Soil carbon (measurement and model method)

Changing management practices to increase the carbon content in soils. These practices could include planting cover crops, legumes and mixed species pasture or reducing tillage amongst others.

Where: agricultural land for at least 5 years



New method development

The CER is responsible for the variation of current methods and the development of new methods. For more information visit: cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Pages/Method-development.aspx

