



To reduce fire risk, planting areas must be at least 50 metres away from residential or commercial buildings and buffers will be placed around powerlines.

Priority is given to sites where the proposed revegetation covers an accumulative area of 10ha or more. Multiple planting areas are permitted if each unique area is a minimum of 0.2ha.

## How will the expressions of interest (EOI) be assessed?

Our project aims to restore biodiversity and combat climate change through revegetation efforts.

**Step 1 – Site eligibility review (October 2023)** – evaluate sites to confirm they meet eligibility criteria.

**Step 2 – Carbon, ecological and co-benefits assessment (October 2023)** – assess sites based on their ecological value, co-benefits, and carbon sequestration potential. Our review process will also consider project risks to ensure the best outcomes.

**Step 3 – Landholder engagement and data collection (November 2023)** – contact owners at a selection of priority sites to gather comprehensive assessment information.

**Step 4 – Final site identification (January 2024)** – identify key sites for further action and commence negotiations with landholders for agreements.

As a pilot initiative, we plan to select sites to trial different approaches across the region to test unique setups. We plan to select at least one site in each of the participating local government areas.

The final decision to proceed with a site for revegetation is at the discretion of the project partner working group.

## What if my site is not one of the initial priority sites selected?

In the initial pilot phase, we hope to revegetate about 80-100ha of land. However, we hope this pilot phase is just the beginning. Our success in this project will open doors to continuing this

important work in the coming years, making a real impact on our environment and community. If your site isn't chosen for the initial pilot phase, we can keep your details (optional) and may contact you later to explore more opportunities.

## What type of trees and shrubs will be planted?

This project aims to help revegetate based on species local to the area. To do this we will use the historical ecological vegetation classes (EVCs) mapped for your site.



To meet the carbon requirements, the planted areas need to have 20 per cent tree cover potential. Habitats that naturally do not support this level of tree cover, such as *Plains Grassy Wetlands*, or *Lignum Swamps* or *Plains Grasslands*, would not be eligible.

During the evaluation process, our team will identify the appropriate vegetation for your property based on EVC mapping. There is no need for you to know this before you apply.

## Who will plant the tubestock and seed?

To ensure the success of large-scale revegetation projects like these, we recommend involving professional crews to handle the planting, and we can arrange this. However, we also believe in empowering you to take an active role in revegetation works on your property if you choose



to do so. Your level of involvement in the planting process is entirely up to you.

If you're eager to get your hands dirty and plant trees on your land, we'll support you every step of the way.

## What will happen to the trees and shrubs once they are planted?

The gradual accumulation of carbon in trees and shrubs as they grow involves essential long-term maintenance. The specific approach to ongoing maintenance will be discussed with landholders on a site-by-site basis.

Landholders may qualify for additional financial incentives to undertake ongoing maintenance, e.g. weed control, negotiated on a case-by-case basis and dependent on the terms of the landholder agreement.

Please note:

- Trees cannot be harvested for purposes other than ecological restoration.
- Grazing will be restricted for a period to allow the trees to establish (typically around seven years, may vary depending on the growth rate of the plantings).
- Fire-risk mitigation strategies will be assessed and incorporated into the project design for each site. Management actions to address the risk of fire will be integrated into the site management plan, which will outline permitted activities to minimise the risk of fire.
- Fencing options will be evaluated on a site-by-site basis to ensure the best protection for the plantings.

## What are the requirements to participate in the project?

Unlike typical revegetation projects, our focus is twofold: using carbon from plantings to offset emissions and to revegetate valuable native habitats. It's a win-win for our region.

To participate, landholders will be required to enter into a carbon rights agreement, that transfers the right to the carbon from the plantings

to our delivery partners. Our team will help you consider the possibilities and help determine the best approach for you and your site. The agreement will define the relevant terms and conditions of the proposed revegetation. No work on site will begin until a landholder agreement is in place.

In transferring carbon rights, certain legal considerations must be carefully considered. Approval from all eligible interest holders of the land, including mortgagees, is necessary. Possible planning amendments to land titles will also be discussed with each landholder, and set conditions for events such as land sales.



## How long will the landholder agreements be for?

Trees and shrubs gradually accumulate carbon as they grow, making long-term maintenance critical (e.g. 30 years or more).

Our delivery partners (or their representative) will need to intermittently access the site over this period to validate tree growth, carbon capture, and potentially conduct long-term maintenance. To allow this, landholders will need to enter into long-term access agreements.

The specific requirements will be determined during the pilot project and in consultation with the landholders.



## How does the Community Carbon project differ from other carbon farming initiatives in Victoria?

There are currently several different opportunities for you to choose from in the carbon market landscape. Choosing the right one for you matters. Two other government programs currently available in the North Central region are BushBank and the Victorian Carbon Farming Program. There are also commercial opportunities you may want to consider.

For key factors to consider when evaluating carbon project visit: [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/understanding-carbon-and-emissions/selling-carbon-from-trees-and-soils](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/understanding-carbon-and-emissions/selling-carbon-from-trees-and-soils)

### BushBank

The Community Carbon and BushBank projects both place specific emphasis on environmental plantings to enhance habitats. What makes the Community Carbon project different from BushBank is that:

- Participants will not be required to enter a Trust for Nature conservation covenant under Community Carbon.
- Community Carbon focuses only on the North Central CMA region. BushBank covers all of Victoria.
- Although Community Carbon will prioritise sites over 10ha, we will consider smaller sites. BushBank requires a minimum of 10ha.

Find out more: [www.cassinia.com/bushbank/](http://www.cassinia.com/bushbank/)

### Victorian Carbon Farming Program

This program focuses on plant woodlot, agroforestry and shelterbelts. There is an option for timber to be harvested after 10 years. If you're interested in a carbon project that allows timber harvesting, this alternative option might be more suitable for you.

Find out more:

[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/policy-programs-action/victorian-carbon-farming-program](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/climate-and-weather/policy-programs-action/victorian-carbon-farming-program)

## How do I register my interest?

To access the expression of interest form, scan the QR code



or follow the link

<https://bit.ly/communitycarbonsurvey>

*Contact the Community Carbon Project Manager for assistance with completing the form online or for a hard copy option.*

## Key dates

Round 1 is open until **30 September 2023\***.

*\*Applications received after this date may be considered in future rounds or if initial round sites don't meet project requirements.*

**October 2023** - Preliminary review of all EOIs received.

**November 2023** - Contacting landholders at priority sites for further discussion.

**January 2024** - Final site identification

## Further information

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