

## Aboriginal Carbon Farming in NSW - Expression of Interest

The Aboriginal Carbon Foundation (AbCF) is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal owned or controlled organisations to participate in demonstration projects on Aboriginal owned or managed lands in NSW (i.e. Freehold Land, [Indigenous Pastoral Land](#), Indigenous Protected Areas and/or native title claimed on Crown Lands).

The AbCF catalyses life-changing, community prosperity, through carbon farming. Our aim is to build wealth for Traditional Owners, implementing carbon projects that demonstrate environmental, social and cultural core benefits, through the ethical trade of carbon credits.

The AbCF is a not-for-profit company with an Aboriginal majority Board and staff. We operate on the cutting edge of ideas and community-based solutions. We bring together people with fresh ways of working, professional experience and a desire to achieve outcomes that tackle Indigenous poverty and climate change through a strengths-based approach.

With a strong culture of innovation and collaboration, the AbCF supports carbon farming projects and connects communities who supply carbon credits, with organisations seeking to offset their carbon pollution.

### NSW Aboriginal Carbon Farming Project

Indigenous land management in Australia goes back 65,000 years. There is a clear and present opportunity to support a return and expansion to traditional knowledge and practices that create a natural equilibrium by their holistic approach to caring for country through the partnering with AbCF in the development of a NSW-based carbon farming project.

An exciting opportunity has been provided through the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance via a successful grant application and collaboration between the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation and the City of Sydney Council.

This demonstration project utilises carbon farming and finance to support traditional practices and income for Aboriginal people. One of 36 different methodologies is [Human-induced Regeneration](#) (HIR) method effectively involves restoring tracts of land to their pre-disturbed condition. However, a range of other vegetation carbon farming methodologies may be applicable and worth investigating, such as:

- Excluding livestock and taking reasonable steps to keep livestock excluded
- Managing the timing and extent of grazing
- Managing feral animals in a humane manner
- Managing plants that are not native to the project area
- Implementing a decision to permanently cease mechanical or chemical destruction, or suppression, of native regrowth

Carbon farming projects not only reduce carbon emissions however also produce environmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes known as core-benefits or co-benefits, these will be verified using the [Core Benefits Verification Framework](#) (CBVF). The CBVF uses a peer to peer strength-based approach. Its decolonisation approach to impact measurement and data sovereignty facilitates Aboriginal groups coming together and enables local jobs as verifiers.

This project aims to draw on Indigenous knowledge systems to support a return to pre-invasion land management (which includes the use of cultural fire) with carbon farming. Carbon projects with verified environmental, social, economic and cultural core benefits generate a premium price within carbon markets.

The AbCF Trading Platform will provide the mechanism for trade and promotion of projects. Long term relationships with corporate Australia liberates Aboriginal organisations from reliance on government grant funding.

### **EOI Submission**

Your submission should detail the following points;

- The Aboriginal organisation who will partner with AbCF in the development of the demonstration project and then own the carbon project, including information about its governance structure, links to the local community and the organisation's long-term aspirations.
- The location, tenure and history of the land where the project will be based.
- The organisation and its representatives' access to the land where the project will be based, and any agreements that support this access for the purpose of carbon farming project activities.
- The local contact person (and contact details) for the project

Please send your submission by COB Friday, December 3 to [sean@abcfoundation.org.au](mailto:sean@abcfoundation.org.au) If you require any further information, please contact Sean Appoo (Project Manager) on 0408 431 698.

The AbCF is a member of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN), Carbon Market Institute (CMI) and is a Founding signatory to the Australian Carbon Industry Voluntary Code of Conduct.