



Westmere Native Forest Regeneration Australia

Restoring native forests and
sequestering carbon on degraded
agricultural land



This project uses the Human-Induced Regeneration (HIR) method to restore native vegetation cover across an area of 29,000 hectares north-west of Louth in New South Wales. By excluding stock and managing pests, trees and shrubs are able to grow, improving habitat for native species and restoring local ecosystem services. They also sequester carbon, creating an alternative revenue stream for rural landholders in the form of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs).



The Context

Vast areas of Australia are grazed by livestock and overrun with feral animals, such as goats and pigs. While livestock grazing is an important economic activity for rural Australia, it can suppress forest growth as tree saplings are often damaged or eaten by stock before they can grow. However, leaving land to regenerate means sacrificing agricultural production and hence income for landholders.

The Project

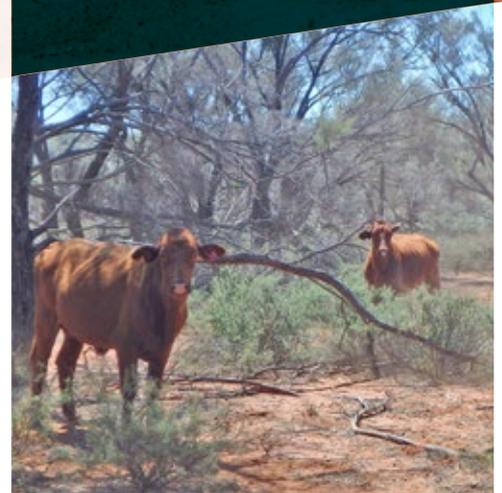
The Human-Induced Regeneration (HIR) method was introduced in 2013 to restore land where native forest growth has been suppressed for ten years or more, usually by grazing or feral animals. Project activities include excluding livestock and managing feral animals and non-native plants. By allowing native vegetation to grow and recover, HIR projects sequester carbon and generate ACCUs – creating alternative revenue streams that allow graziers to supplement lost agricultural productivity. Once at forest cover, livestock may be reintroduced into the project area in a managed way that does not impact on accumulated carbon.

The Benefits

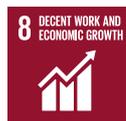
As well as storing carbon in regenerated native tree cover and providing alternative revenue streams for landholders, the HIR method creates a range of local environmental benefits. Excluding stock from the project area and controlling pest flora and fauna allows native species to proliferate as habitat regenerates, while the quality of land and water supply may also be improved as local ecosystem services are restored. As the project approaches tree cover, greater shade benefits not only local wildlife, but also livestock that can be reintroduced into forested areas.

Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)

One ACCU represents one tonne of actual, verified and additional carbon dioxide equivalent either avoided or removed from the atmosphere: 1 tCO₂e. Emission reduction projects that produce ACCUs are overseen by the Clean Energy Regulator and must adhere to methods managed by the Department of Environment and Energy.



Emissions Reduction Fund



Carbon credits

are generated by HIR projects, creating alternative and additional revenue streams for regional communities



80,000
tCO₂e

reduced by this project to date, by sequestering carbon in regenerated vegetation



29,000
ha

of native vegetation is being regenerated, increasing biodiversity and improving habitat for native wildlife



Increased biodiversity

by promoting indigenous species and controlling pests, while increased forest cover provides shade and shelter for native wildlife

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official methodologies: Westmere Regeneration Project | ID: **ERF101667** | **Registry link:** <https://tinyurl.com/yx79zs3s>

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