

The Importance of Independent Advice in a Changing World

The Current Situation

The increasing requirement for agriculture to move towards demonstrated carbon/ecological neutrality means there is high demand for services that scope, and advise on the opportunities and risks this movement will bring.

The dominant source of advice and consultancy currently being provided in this space is from people/businesses who derive a proportion of their income from projects.

This leads to an inherent conflict of interest

The potential is for data and advice to be skewed or even manipulated to artificially enhance the benefits and potential scope of a Carbon/Natural Capital project, or to minimise the potential risks.

As an independent consultancy business working across Australia in this space and more broadly in landscape management, we see this all the time. We hypothesise that this has contributed to the negative public perceptions and media coverage around these types of projects in the rangelands

Australia's most popular carbon credit scheme, Human Induced Regeneration, questioned by experts

Home / Earth / Environment
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Review of Australia's carbon credit scheme falls short and problems will continue to fester, say researchers

In Australia's Outback, a controversial cash crop is booming: Carbon

Forest regeneration that earned multimillion-dollar carbon credits resulted in fewer trees, analysis finds

Exclusive: Claim by academics, including former integrity chair of Australia's carbon credit scheme, raises further doubts about system

How Have we Got Here?

There is an inherent incentive and pressure to overstate an opportunity if your main source of income is derived from land managers agreeing to sign on

There is a lack of qualification, experience and knowledge of the underlying ecological and land management principles required to achieve the required outcomes of a carbon/Natural Capital project within the advisory and consultancy agencies

The regulator is not a subject matter expert and is unable to adequately separate good data from bad

Land managers are not subject matter experts either and are vulnerable to 'golden goose' sales pitches couched as advice



What do we need?

It is only from the position of knowing a landscapes values (from all perspectives) that a land manager can make an informed decision on how best to engage with an industry that is becoming an important part of successful rangelands businesses.

We advocate for land managers to seek, and have access to, independent, scientifically rigorous and practically implementable advice on the opportunities and threats these developing industries present.

One Example

The Landscape Evaluation and Financial (LEAF) planning process delivers whole of landscape, triple bottom line plans that provide guidance and clarity for land managers to have confidence in the merit of their investments of time and money into their landscape.

Included in the plans are, scientifically rigorous and ecologically realistic scoping and feasibility documents for potential carbon and Natural Capital opportunities, mapped and quantified. The resultant LEAF plan for any project is practically and financially integrated with the grazing business and other enterprises



Where to start?

- Start by asking questions. Seek scoping and feasibility advice
- Start with a plan
- **Start!**



Find out more

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