Integrating climate change and the carbon economy into the Rangelands NRM WA Regional Plan

# Contents

Contents........................................................................................................................................... 2

Background ........................................................................................................................................ 3

1. Introduction .................................................................................................................................. 3

2. Integrating climate change and the carbon economy into the INFFER™ process .................. 4

2.1. Asset specific consideration .................................................................................................................. 4

3. Predicted climate change ..................................................................................................................... 5

4. Activities to protect natural resources ............................................................................................... 6

5. Carbon farming and natural resource management ........................................................................... 9

5.1. Financial considerations .................................................................................................................... 9

5.2. Impacts of CFI on natural resources ................................................................................................. 9

5.2.1. CFI legislation to reduce negative impacts on natural resources ...................................... 10

5.2.2. The ‘positive list’ ........................................................................................................................ 10

5.2.3. Methodologies which might adversely affect NRM................................................................. 10

6. Potential CFI projects ....................................................................................................................... 11

6.1. Approved emissions reduction or avoidance projects ................................................................. 11

6.2. Approved carbon sequestration projects ......................................................................................... 11

6.3. Emissions reduction or avoidance projects under consideration / development .............. 12

6.4. Carbon sequestration projects under consideration/development ......................................... 13

7. Subregional components of the CFI and Climate Change documentation .................................. 14

7.1. Kimberley subregion ....................................................................................................................... 14

7.2. Pilbara subregion ............................................................................................................................ 14

7.3. Gascoyne subregion ....................................................................................................................... 14

7.4. Murchison subregion ..................................................................................................................... 14

7.5. Goldfields - Nullarbor subregion ................................................................................................. 15

7.6. Desert subregion ............................................................................................................................ 15

8. Checklist for undertaking a carbon project in the WA rangelands .............................................. 16

8.1. Guiding principles .......................................................................................................................... 16

8.2. Project development checklist ..................................................................................................... 16

Appendix A: Summary of approach undertaken by Northwest Carbon to develop the Carbon Farming Initiative and Climate Change components of the Rangelands NRM Plan ................................................................. 19
Background
This project was undertaken in 2012 by Northwest Carbon to provide a framework for integrating predicted climate change and carbon economy projects into the Rangelands WA NRM Plan.

The purpose of integrating climate and carbon within the plan is to help guide the types and locations of activities under the carbon farming initiative (CFI) and Biodiversity Fund which will maximise benefits in a way that is driven by regional stakeholders, whilst minimising any potential negative impacts.

The approach to integration is summarised in Appendix A, so that end-users of the plan can see how the process was undertaken and how it can be repeated or modified in the future.

1. Introduction
The introduction of the carbon farming initiative (CFI) has led to a need for modification of natural resource management (NRM) plans Australia-wide to address both climate change adaptation and planning and policy development in order to provide advice and direction to potential carbon project developers.

This document explains the strategic approach undertaken to integrate climate change and the CFI into the Rangelands NRM Plan (“Regional Plan”).

The purpose of integrating climate and carbon into the Rangelands NRM plan is to help guide the types and locations of activities under the CFI and Biodiversity Fund to maximise the benefits for biodiversity, water and agricultural production.

This project was undertaken with three primary aims:

1. Introduce some locally relevant information on forecasts of climate change in the region, and how those impacts may impact the chance of NRM project success.

2. Undertake a review of possible carbon projects that could be undertaken in the region.

3. Determine which carbon projects have the potential to work well with current or desired future NRM projects to improve environmental asset condition, and which carbon projects have the potential to negatively impact on desirable NRM outcomes.

It is intended that this process will be an iterative one, whereby the initial approach applied may be further refined or significantly adapted as its effectiveness can only be judged after the fact.
2. Integrating climate change and the carbon economy into the INFFER™ process

In the 2013 update of the Regional Plan, Steps 1 and 2 of the INFFER™ (Investment Framework for Environmental Resources), process were used to identify significant environmental assets and initial priorities for investment.

Over a period of 18 months, INFFER™ asset identification workshops were run in each of the subregions of the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, Murchison, Goldfields-Nullarbor and Desert. After the workshops, the NWC project team identified a mitigation activity for each threat. The most frequently identified threats in each sub-region were then determined through a count of how many times each threat was identified by workshop attendees. In most cases, around five to seven commonly identified threats were identified.

For each of the commonly identified threats to assets, judgement was applied to determine whether there was a carbon project that could be applied to assist in improving or protecting asset condition. This did not include estimation of economics of project development, delivery or potential for carbon market to provide complete or partial cost recovery.

2.1. Asset specific consideration

As well as determining regional carbon project opportunities or priorities, three additional questions were applied to the standard INFFER™ filtering criteria to assist in determining the risks and opportunities of climate change and carbon economy on specific asset protection at the project level.

Using the INFFER™ scoring system, the questions were answered with a categorical qualitative (ranking) score shown below.

1. **Are the forecast climate changes for the region likely to impact the delivery of the desired management actions?** Express as a confidence level: H=Unlikely, M=Possible, L=Likely.

2. **Is it likely that carbon sequestration or emissions avoidance projects in the vicinity (5km or less) of the environmental asset will negatively impact the desired management action/s?** Express as a confidence level: H=Unlikely, M=Possible, L=Likely.

3. **Is it possible that the desired management actions could be funded at least in part in the future through the sale of carbon credits?** Express as a confidence level: H=High, M=Medium, L=Low.
Following analysis, projects were re-ranked in terms of likelihood of success under climate change and carbon economy. Step 3 of the INFFER™ process – project development using the Project Assessment Form - can then be undertaken on assets that meet the pre-determined criteria.

3. Predicted climate change

Australia's climate can vary greatly from one year to the next. Figure 1 below presents the main influences upon the Australian climate.

Influences will have varying levels of impact in different regions at different times of year, and these influences can all be impacted by shifts in global atmospheric and oceanographic circulation, expected to be in part influenced by human induced changes to the make-up of gases in the atmosphere.

![Figure 1. Broad drivers of Australian climate](www.bom.gov.au/watl/about-weather-and-climate/australian-climate-influences.shtml)
Reports of climate change from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology (State of the Climate – 2012\(^2\)) state that:

- Australian annual average daily mean temperatures have increased by 0.9 °C since 1910.
- Global average mean sea level for 2011 was 210 mm above the level in 1880.
- Sea surface temperatures have increased by about 0.8 °C since 1910.
- The main cause of the observed increase in carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is the combustion of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution.
- Australian average temperatures are projected to rise by 1.0 to 5.0 °C by 2070 when compared with the climate of recent decades.

In summary, it can be observed that during the last century temperatures, sea levels and the sea temperature have all risen. Please refer to the relevant climate section of each region for more information on forecast climate change in the rangelands of Western Australia.

4. Activities to protect natural resources

NRM projects are delivered to protect environmental assets from sources of degradation or to improve the condition of a currently degraded asset. **Table 1** below presents the ‘NRM project types list’ developed for this project. It is recommended that this list is updated and revised as different impacts and new NRM project types are encountered.

The list identifies NRM threat types, with possible projects to mitigate threats to assets listed alongside the threat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRM threat type</th>
<th>Possible NRM projects to mitigate threats to assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire management</td>
<td>- Fuel load reduction and preparatory works (grazing, maintaining fence lines, back burning, litter clean up or pushing litter away from key assets)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Active fire fighting (grader breaks/bulldozing breaks, blowers, chemical or water bombing, fire breaks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human population</td>
<td>- Fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impacts</td>
<td>- Interpretive signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Formalise pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feral animals</td>
<td>- Fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Removals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Introduce disease vector/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Neuter and release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed management</td>
<td>- Quarantine and hygiene when moving between areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Education and informative signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cut and swab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Burn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mechanical removal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil protection</td>
<td>- Improve ground cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Reduce water flow rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fauna management</td>
<td>- Ensure legal take limits are enforced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Habitat provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Education and interpretive signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Management of feral carnivores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation management</td>
<td>- Identify vegetation communities that cannot or should not be cleared)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Protection against fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Rising salt (see water quality protection projects)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Revegetation/placement of naturally occurring species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riparian vegetation</td>
<td>- Fencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>management</td>
<td>- Replanting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Natural regeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality in</td>
<td>- Catchment soil and vegetation management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waterways/lakes</td>
<td>- Riparian vegetation management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Control/manage use of fertilisers/herbicides/pesticides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Appropriate hygiene and quarantine procedures to present introduction of aquatic weeds/pests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Informative signage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Salinisation (from rising water tables) requires revegetation or salt interception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM threat type</td>
<td>Possible NRM projects to mitigate threats to assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Grazing/grassland management | o  Fencing  
 o  Timed grazing  
 o  Use of fire, stock, machinery and chemicals to maintain optimal tree/grass balance                                               |
| Coastal assets               | o  Overfishing protection by application of relevant legislation, interpretive signage  
 o  Revegetation of coastal plants (e.g. mangroves, salt tolerant coastal marshes)  
 o  Maintenance/reintroduction of drying/wetting cycles through removing civil engineering structures that obstruct flow  
 o  Protection of marine plants/benthos/water quality via reducing sedimentation/nutrient load through catchment waterway management, management of point source impacts, provision of appropriate moorings to protect against direct impacts, improved design of waterway, appropriate timing for extractive processes (e.g. avoid key times for critical species such as breeding times. |

Table 1. NRM Project types list
5. Carbon farming and natural resource management

The carbon farming initiative (CFI) is a voluntary program offering economic rewards to farmers and landholders in return for reducing carbon emissions or storing carbon.

NRM projects that meet the requirements of the CFI may be eligible to earn Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs), which can be sold into carbon markets to generate an income.

5.1. Financial considerations

NRM projects which do have the potential to earn carbon credits may find the credits partially cover the cost of developing, implementing and maintaining stakeholder driven NRM projects.

However, the following costs will need to be considered against any potential revenue:

- Opportunity costs – the value of an alternative use of land forgone because of the decision to set up a CFI project. Ecological, cultural and economic considerations should be taken into account within the opportunity cost assessment.

- Cost of technical and methodological feasibility studies, i.e. what is the likelihood of the project producing a viable number of carbon credits?

- Implementation and ongoing project management (including costs of new technologies or input materials for changed management practice, project reporting, and costs of trading).

In addition, carbon sequestration projects will need to consider:

- Opportunity costs of locking up land to meet the CFI’s 100 year permanence obligations. These obligations require carbon sequestration projects to maintain the carbon store for a 100 year non-reversible period.

- Recognised native title body corporate interests (if native title has been deemed to be in existence where the project is proposed to be undertaken), and any other stakeholders with an interest in the land (i.e. the Crown, if a pastoral lease and banks with a mortgage interest in the land), which may involve some commercial considerations, if the Crown allows such activities to take place (refer http://climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative/indigenous.aspx)

5.2. Impacts of CFI on natural resources

From an NRM planning perspective, many land management activities could earn carbon credits whilst at the same time having a positive impact on biodiversity, agricultural productivity and local communities. However, the wrong type of CFI project in the wrong
place could negatively impact on stakeholder values, including biodiversity, agricultural productivity and cultural or social values of the region. There are mechanisms in place to protect natural resources and minimise the negative of carbon farming. For a project to be eligible to earn credits under the CFI, it must:

- not be on the ‘negative’ list, but
- should be included on the ‘positive’ list, and
- be covered by an approved CFI methodology (see pages 11 - 13).

5.2.1. CFI legislation to reduce negative impacts on natural resources

CFI legislation exists to protect natural resources in three ways:

1. CFI project proponents are responsible for ensuring that the project complies with the water, planning and environmental requirements at all levels of government. To be eligible for CFI the project must have the necessary approvals.

2. The project must be consistent with the regional natural resource management plans.

3. The project must not be on the ‘negative list’— this living document lists current regional concerns about activities that are likely to cause a negative impact on the availability of water, biodiversity, employment, the local community, or land access for agricultural production. Negative list activities are not eligible to be registered as a CFI project, or to receive carbon credits under the CFI.

See the current list of excluded offsets projects (the ‘negative list’, current as at January 2014).

5.2.2. The ‘positive list’

The ‘positive list’ is an evolving living register of CFI activities that are eligible to earn carbon credits. These are activities which are perceived as additional or beyond common practice (i.e. they would not have occurred without the CFI).

See current positive list activities (current as at January 2014).

5.2.3. Methodologies which might adversely affect NRM

Carbon credit generating projects which could currently have the greatest potential negative impact on delivery of NRM projects in the region use farm forestry/afforestation and reforestation methodologies (the planting of non-native or single species as carbon forests).

Planting a single tree species over a wide area and for a large number of consecutive years (monoculture forest), might cause a number of adverse effects to NRM projects.
However, with regard to the NRM projects that were identified at the stakeholder workshops, it was considered unlikely that monoculture carbon forests would negatively impact the delivery of these projects.

This assessment was only carried out for assets identified in the workshops, and therefore not all environmental assets in this region have been assessed for how potential carbon projects may impact them. Thus, it is recommended that this assessment process is regularly updated as more CFI methodologies are accepted, and CFI project proponents seek to develop novel projects in the region.

6. Potential CFI projects
Given the positive and negative lists, it is possible to assess potential CFI projects. The ‘carbon project list’ a list of potential projects was used to determine whether or not an NRM project may be eligible to earn carbon credits.

Methodologies were qualitatively assessed to see if they were regionally applicable. Firstly the assessment considered the biology of the region, the regional climate, vegetation classes and other key variables. Secondly, an assessment of the likely rate of uptake of an approved version of the methodology in the future was undertaken. The assessment process was qualitative, and individual situations, circumstances or desires may lead to higher or lower than predicted uptake of particular project types in the region.

Approved methodologies from other carbon credit generating schemes, which cannot currently generate ACCUs in Australia, were considered as part of the broader review of methodologies that may be relevant to Rangelands NRM WA.

6.1. Approved emissions reduction or avoidance projects

**Savanna burning**
Description: Savanna fire management involves strategically burning early in the dry season, to reduce the number and strength of fires that might occur later in the year. This reduces fuel consumed, area burnt, and emissions of methane (CH\(_4\)) and nitrous oxide (N\(_2\)O).

The methodology is currently only applicable to a limited set of vegetation types above the 1000mm annual average rainfall band in the Northern Territory.

However, the Department of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency has [funded research relevant to the Kimberley region](#) which has the potential to expand the applicability of the revised methodology down to the 600mm annual average rainfall band.

6.2. Approved carbon sequestration projects

**Human-induced regeneration of a permanent even-aged native forest**
Description: Permanent forests of native species are established by stopping human activities that prevent the regrowth of vegetation.

**Environmental plantings**
Description: Establishment and management of permanent native forests by planting and/or seeding native species on cleared or partially cleared land.

This methodology was created with the view of revegetating lands that had previously been cleared mechanically of native vegetation. There is not expected to be significant areas that were mechanically cleared of native vegetation in the Rangelands NRM region and those areas that were mechanically cleared are likely to be under other land use (e.g. horticulture or irrigated agriculture). It would not be possible to clear land and then plant a carbon forest within seven years of land clearance.

**Reforestation and afforestation**
Description: Reforestation of cleared land and/or afforestation of land where forests have not previously existed in order to sequester carbon. Plantings are not required to be comprised of native species.

This methodology was designed to encourage the revegetation of land that had previously been mechanically cleared of native vegetation. There is not expected to be significant areas that were mechanically cleared of native vegetation in the rangelands of WA, and those areas that were mechanically cleared are likely to be under other land use (e.g. horticulture or irrigated agriculture). Under this methodology, it is not permissible to clear land and then plant a carbon forest within seven years of land clearance.

**6.3. Emissions reduction or avoidance projects under consideration / development**

**Reduction of methane emissions through the application of a feed supplement to dairy cows**
Description: Giving a feed supplement to dairy cows that will reduce their methane emissions.

As well as using feed additives or changed paddock management to increase the amount of food on offer, other activities that could decrease methane production include increasing reproductive efficiency, increasing weight for age and improving herd genetics for better reproductive capacity.

Methane reduction per unit of animal production may be applicable to the extensive cattle production systems of the rangelands of WA.

**Management of large feral herbivores (camels) in the Australian rangelands**
Description: Removal of feral camels. This methodology was not endorsed, however the principle could be applied to feral cattle in the region through a new methodology submission.

6.4. Carbon sequestration projects under consideration/development

Measurement-based methodology for farm forestry projects
Description: Establishment of trees on agricultural land that was previously clear of woody vegetation. May involve the periodic removal of commercial and non-commercial, above-ground biomass from the site. Most likely to apply to single species plantations.

Native forest protection projects
Description: Protection of native forests, achieved through the prevention of clearing and clear felling harvesting activities. This methodology and an ‘avoided deforestation’ methodology was not endorsed by the Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee (DOIC). However, whilst the positive list has been amended to allow for protection of native forest projects to proceed on freehold land under certain conditions (‘avoided clearing’ and ‘avoided harvest’), it is not clear how may land managers in the region hold forest clearance permits.

Native forest from managed regrowth
Native forest regrowth is most applicable to regions where native vegetation has been regularly cleared for pastoral production purposes. Without human clearing, carbon would be stored in the tissues of woody plants, including coarse woody debris on the forest floor. Appropriate for sites where native forest can be developed principally by a change in management practices that suppress or destroy the regeneration of woody plants, to practices which facilitate native woody plant recruitment and growth.

This methodology was developed for land in western NSW and Queensland that had been extensively mechanically cleared and uses specialised data which is unique to the eastern states.

Changed grazing management
Description: Changes to grazing land management practices to increase carbon stocks of living and dead vegetation (trees, shrubs and grasses) both above and below the ground. As well as modifying grazing practices to increase carbon stock in regenerated native vegetation, project proponents will need to manage hydrological processes and reduce the intensity and frequency of fires.

It is envisioned this methodology would most likely be applied to rangelands which have a largely intact native vegetation, where livestock grazing has been the primary land use and where it can be shown that historical land use has caused the landscape to hold less carbon than it naturally would have.
This methodology might be combined with activities that lead to a decrease in methane production referred to in the ‘emissions reduction’ section above.

7. Subregional components of the CFI and Climate Change documentation

As the Rangelands of Western Australia are so vast and varied, documentation has been prepared separately for each of the subregions, as follows:

7.1. Kimberley subregion
- Kimberley CFI Case Study (2013) Prepared by Northwest Carbon for Rangelands NRM WA

7.2. Pilbara subregion
- Pilbara CFI Case Study (2013) Prepared by Northwest Carbon for Rangelands NRM WA

7.3. Gascoyne subregion
- Gascoyne CFI Case Study (2013) Prepared by Northwest Carbon for Rangelands NRM WA

7.4. Murchison subregion
• Murchison CFI Case Study (2013) Prepared by Northwest Carbon for Rangelands NRM WA

7.5. Goldfields - Nullarbor subregion
• Goldfields-Nullarbor CFI Case Study (2013) Prepared by Northwest Carbon for Rangelands NRM WA

7.6. Desert subregion
• Desert CFI Case Study (2013) Prepared by Northwest Carbon for Rangelands NRM WA
8. Checklist for undertaking a carbon project in the WA rangelands

The CFI acknowledges the need to balance NRM outcomes with the development of carbon credit generating projects and specifies that project proponents ensure that projects are consistent with the relevant regional NRM plan.

However to date, no NRM plans in Australia have been developed with the carbon economy or the CFI specifically in mind.

The section below is intended to provide guidance for CFI project developers when they are seeking to make their projects consistent with the NRM Rangelands WA plan.

8.1. Guiding principles

1. Projects should be designed so that they achieve an acceptable balance of social, environmental and economic gains.

2. Projects must be designed with multiple beneficial NRM outcomes wherever possible.

3. Projects should not be designed so that they achieve maximum economic gains to the detriment of the associated social and environmental conditions in the project area.

4. Projects must not adversely impact on water resources, threatened species and ecological communities, landscape connectedness or food security.

5. Projects should be designed to include strong community support and involvement.

6. No animal should suffer as a result of a carbon project.

7. No clearance of native vegetation should occur as a result of a carbon project.

8. Projects must not increase the threats to key assets identified in the regional NRM plan.

9. Where possible projects should be developed to alleviate the threats to key assets identified in the regional NRM plan.

8.2. Project development checklist

1. Does the project have any impact on ground or surface water availability and if so have the impacts been managed within the project design?

2. Does the project have potential to impact on neighbouring land managers and if so have they been consulted in the project design?
3. Have regional NRM staff been approached with regards to the project design and are they supportive?

4. Does the project impact threatened species or ecological communities and if so is the impact managed or minimised during the project design?

5. Does the project decrease landscape connectivity through the establishment of monoculture plantations and if so, have the impacts been reduced through the project design?

6. Does the project impact adversely on any key assets identified in the regional NRM plan?

7. Is the project planned for the most appropriate location for multiple outcomes?

8. Does the project contribute to long term sustainability of the land use?

9. Does the project impact negatively on any cultural assets?

10. Does the project have food security implications and if so, have these impacts been taken into account during project design?

11. Does the project increase the risk of spread or impacts from pest plants and animals and has this threat been mitigated through the project design?

12. Does the project assist to manage the impacts of total grazing pressure in the region?

The following provides a step-by-step guide that could be used to test whether a proposed CFI project is consistent with the Rangelands NRM plan.

1. Specify where the project is (using the mapping tool on the Rangelands NRM Plan site, to determine which subregion the project is in)

2. Do you have the right to undertake the project? Check CFI project eligibility test (if YES proceed, if NO refer back to regional plan general carbon overview)

3. Is there an approved methodology for the project? (if yes, proceed to checklist, if no, refer back to regional plan general carbon overview)

4. If there is an approved methodology, is it for carbon storage or emissions avoidance? (if it’s an emission avoidance methodology, are there any project types that are likely to cause significant negative impacts to biodiversity, agricultural productivity, cultural or social assets of the region?)

5. For carbon storage projects, is the methodology the environmental plantings methodology? (if yes, likely to be consistent? If no, have you undertaken research to ensure that the project is consistent with all other legislation and regulations at the level of shire planning and state government, including water, environment, agriculture and conservation regulations? If no, confirm its ok with all other planning
needs. If yes, is it in an area considered to be of strategic importance by the Biodiversity Fund or in a sub-region where this project type is of importance to regional NRM planning? This is likely to be as simple as the TAG maps in the first instance and can be improved over time)
Appendix A: Summary of approach undertaken by Northwest Carbon to develop the Carbon Farming Initiative and Climate Change components of the Rangelands NRM Plan

1. Desktop review of forecast changes to regional climate.
2. Desktop review of NRM project types to protect or improve condition of environmental asset.
3. Desktop review of carbon legislation and carbon project types. Based on professional judgement identify carbon projects with potential negative impacts on regional NRM goals.
4. Examine outputs from subregional workshops: what are the most commonly reported threats to assets in the region? Refer to NRM projects list for actions to mitigate threats to assets.
5. Refer to carbon projects list: are any of these projects suitable to be undertaken to mitigate regional priority threats to environmental assets?
6. For each individual asset identified (and its associated CFI project), apply the INFER™ filtering criteria with three additional questions:
   i. Are the forecast climate changes for the region likely to impact the delivery of the desired management actions?
   ii. Is it likely that carbon sequestration or emissions avoidance projects in the vicinity (5km or less) of the environmental asset will negatively impact the desired management action/s?
   iii. Is it possible that the desired management actions could be funded at least in part in the future through the sale of carbon credits?

This allowed for the re-ranking of all INFER™ ranked assets and potential projects, to determine which had the greatest chance of success under future climate and carbon economy scenarios.

Continually updating the relevant lists and how they relate to NRM regional priorities will ensure that the Rangelands NRM plan continues to gives clear advice to land managers on what projects have the greatest chance of success and ensuring that NRM investment is able to achieve relevant and worthwhile asset protection.