

CARBON SINK STUDY: OVERVIEW



BACKGROUND

SECCCA has declared a climate emergency, recognising the need to urgently act to mitigate and reverse the impacts of climate change. Most member councils have adopted zero net emissions targets for their respective communities and it is acknowledged that in order to meet these targets, councils will need to invest in projects that act as “sinks” and draw carbon out of the atmosphere and sequester it away for the long term, also known as ‘carbon sequestration’ (CS). For residual emissions that cannot be avoided, carbon offsets may be purchased to meet net zero targets.

Carbon sink projects have many additional benefits such as: linking urban forest corridors, improving ecosystem biodiversity, reducing heat island effect, improving public health and threatened species survival and support.

In order to work towards SECCCA’s vision and achieve member council targets (where stated) and climate mitigation priorities, carbon emissions must be reduced. This project will assist councils to better understand CS and the local opportunities in this space.

This project is scheduled for completion by 30th July 2023.

[Environmental Accounting Services](#) have been engaged to undertake the study.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective is to provide a region-wide study, investigating the carbon sequestration opportunities for the south east Melbourne region. This in turn will assist councils to meet their varying emission reduction and net zero targets.

SUPPORTED BY

The project is funded by all nine SECCCA member councils.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

SECCCA is managing the project, with the technical expertise of Environmental Accounting Services as project consultant. A project working group of all nine councils are providing advice and supporting project delivery.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Working with all nine member councils, project consultant will engage councils to gain an understanding of their needs/preferences/policies on carbon sequestration and current plans for biodiversity and species protection. Workshops will also be undertaken with councils to understand the results and opportunities to road test / ground truth before final recommendations and conclusions made. A final report will be produced with a presentation to SECCCA members.