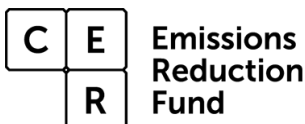


## Factsheet - Understanding Carbon Estimation Areas

- A Carbon Estimation Areas (CEA) is the area within a project where the project or carbon management activity takes place. CEAs are the area where carbon will be stored, and for which Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) are issued.
- Methods under the ACCU Scheme set out the rules for mapping CEAs. CEAs may be many times smaller than a project area (for example, number of hectares within a larger farm).
- CEA boundaries are fluid rather than fixed across the life of a project and this is a deliberate design feature of the ACCU Scheme. For example, areas that don't respond to project activities under areas-based methods will need to be removed if they are no longer eligible to receive ACCUs.

### Publication of CEAs on the ACCU Scheme Project Register

- Following recommendations from the Independent Review of the Australian Carbon Credit Units and the passage of the Safeguard Mechanism (Crediting) Amendment Bill 2023, the CER now publishes CEA data on the ACCU Scheme Project Register for relevant area-based offsets projects.
- The inclusion of the CEAs in the Register provides greater transparency of the location of carbon farming activity within a project area.
- Data placed on the Register is not sufficient (in itself) to make a judgement about the performance of ACCU Scheme projects. In most cases, CEAs do not provide insight into the changed land management practices associated with the project or readily show how much abatement has been achieved, particularly at the early stages of a project. The examination of geospatial satellite (GIS) images of CEAs is often not sufficient to determine whether projects are complying with the method and other relevant scheme legislation.
- CEA data does not provide confirmation of project activity outcomes equivalent to what can be detected by direct measurement, site visits, drone footage or geolocated photographs of CEAs. Such evidence is used by the CER to assess project compliance.
- The CER is not able to put such contextual information relevant to the CEAs into the public domain as it currently remains protected under the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015.
- The CER is not able to put such contextual information relevant to the CEAs into the public domain until authorised by a change to the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015.
- Project proponents may give consent to the CER to publish information to supplement the publication of their CEAs. This information is not independently checked for accuracy or sufficiency against the CER's data holdings.





Illustrated example of HIR project area, including CEAs below -

