

A CARBON VISION FOR THE RESTORATION OF EUCALYPT WOODLANDS

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1. Woodland restoration is possible.
2. The past scale of restoration is inadequate.
3. Commercial-scale investment in natural infrastructure is needed.
4. The emerging carbon market could be a major investor in woodland restoration.
5. Poorly planned and executed investments in carbon biosequestration are a risk.
6. Design and implementation standards are needed for biosequestration.
7. Applied research is needed to reduce constraints to commercial investment and on-ground restoration.

Introduction

For the past 28 years, Greening Australia has been involved in woodland restoration throughout its distribution in Australia. For example in 2007, Greening Australia direct seeded nearly 4000 km of locally native trees and shrubs and erected over 1000 km of fencing to assist in the conservation of over 100 000 ha of remnant vegetation. We have collectively learned some positive, as well as some sobering lessons from these efforts in partnership with landholders, government agencies, commercial organisations and thousands of volunteers.

Lessons

1. Woodland restoration is possible

Greening Australia's restoration works have involved the planting of a modest diversity of local trees and shrubs into long-cleared land dominated by a ground-layer of exotic grasses and legumes. We now know how to successfully restore a large diversity of native plants, including groundcover (Gibson-Roy 2007). We know that if we plant it, most plants will survive and some wildlife will come (Taws 2007). These plantings are providing ecosystem services at the patch scale, including habitat for native birds (Barrett *et al.* 2008; Lindenmayer *et al.* 2010;