

# **SOUTHERN FORESTS FOOD COUNCIL INC.**

## **SOUTHERN FORESTS REGIONAL CARBON STRATEGY PILOT 2025**



### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

#### **THE CHALLENGE**

Carbon is a complex and sometimes unpopular topic, but it's already shaping our supply chain. Ignoring it could mean losing markets and missing new opportunities – something none of us want for our producers, community, or region. Government and industry are increasingly required to report on carbon management activities, and failure to report can have a detrimental impact on Southern Forests producers. That's why the SFFC is taking action – proactively supporting our region to navigate carbon journeys and safeguard our future.

We are committed to helping producers better understand the carbon journey and its impact on their businesses. We are working with key stakeholders to advocate for the understanding, resources, and support needed for our region to succeed on this path. Additionally, we are contributing to a Southern Forests collaborative effort – sharing knowledge, offering support, and driving collective action to ensure our producers remain viable and competitive in an evolving market focused on carbon neutrality.

#### **SEEKING EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS**

The Southern Forests Food Council (SFFC) invites producers to participate in a pilot program aimed at advancing the SFFC Carbon Strategy. This initiative will support the development of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Accounts and identify a suitable carbon calculator that can be adopted across the Southern Forests region. The pilot will enhance producers' ability to make informed decisions and respond effectively to the challenges of a changing climate.

#### **Why Participate?**

By joining this pilot, producers will:

- Gain valuable insights into your GHG emissions and carbon footprint.
- Have the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing development of a national carbon calculator relevant for producers in our region.
- Gain insights into how factors like your budget, the season, climate, herd size, and crop type influence your carbon emissions.
- Contribute to the development of region-wide carbon management tools.
- Identify areas of high emissions for individual producers and potentially the region.
- Share knowledge about innovative farming practices while building resilience to climate challenges.
- Support a sustainable future for the Southern Forests region.
- Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing: This pilot is designed as a collaborative process, allowing producers to share knowledge, insights, and ideas. Feedback from participants will assist the SFFC in identifying carbon-related issues that can be presented to Local, State, and Federal representatives for action.

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### **Who Can Apply?**

We are seeking up to 10 producers from the Southern Forests region to participate in this initiative, this includes participants from Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Manjimup, Nannup, Northcliffe, Pemberton and Walpole.

If you are interested in being part of this pilot, we encourage you to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). For more information or to apply, please contact Laura Bolitho, General Manager, Southern Forests Food Council at (08) 9772 4180 or [laura@southernforestsfood.com](mailto:laura@southernforestsfood.com).

### **SFFC Membership**

Preference for participating in the pilot will be given to **SFFC members**. If you are not yet a SFFC member but would like to participate in this pilot, you can become a member by contacting us.

### **The three phases of the pilot**

The pilot will consist of three (3) phases:

- **Phase 1:** identify appropriate GHG accounting tools and calculator relevant to the diverse horticulture farming operations in the Southern Forests region
- **Phase 2:** pilot group of farmers to utilise identified calculator to develop GHG accounts and provide feedback on the process and tools
- **Phase 3:** share outcomes with broader network including high emission areas.

### **EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST TODAY!**

To register your interest in participating in the **SFFC Carbon Pilot**, please submit the following details by **3:00 PM on 23 April 2025**:

### **REQUIRED INFORMATION**

**NAME:**

**EMAIL:**

**PHONE:**

**WHAT DO YOU PRODUCE:**

*e.g. beef cattle, avocados etc.*

**FARM LOCATION:**

**ARE YOU CURRENTLY A SFFC MEMBER:**

*If not, are you willing to become a member?*

You will be notified of the outcome of your application by **30 April 2025**.

For further details, please contact Laura Bolitho, General Manager, Southern Forests Food Council at (08) 9772 4180 or [laura@southernforestsfood.com](mailto:laura@southernforestsfood.com).

## PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES

There is **no cost** to participate in this important pilot. However, participants will be expected to contribute their time, de-identified data, and effort to ensure the pilot's success.

As part of the pilot, participants will be required to attend up to **three group meetings**, which will facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing:

**Meeting 1:** Introduction to the carbon strategy and pilot overview, calculate initial GHG accounts.

**Meeting 2:** Review refined GHG accounts. Group feedback and discussion.

**Meeting 3:** Presentation of pilot results and key findings.

Outcomes from the pilot will highlight key points of potential advocacy for the SFFC regarding concerns of our region's producers. These concerns may include the following:

- **Economic Viability:** High costs of transitioning to sustainable practices (e.g., new technologies, reduced output during change) and uncertain returns from carbon markets.
- **Technical Barriers:** Limited access to knowledge, tools (including stable/reliable horticultural carbon calculators), and training for sustainable practices (e.g., regenerative agriculture, carbon sequestration methods).
- **Climate Variability:** Impact of unpredictable weather patterns on the effectiveness of carbon sequestration methods such as reforestation and soil improvement.
- **Policy Uncertainty:** Lack of clarity around government incentives, carbon credit schemes, and long-term sustainability policies.
- **Market Challenges:** Insufficient consumer demand for low-carbon produce and limited financial rewards for sustainable farming practices.
- **Added burden:** Anticipating the expectation for growers to implement/undertake carbon auditing and absorb the associated costs.

These outcomes be reported to key stakeholders and will help guide the next steps of the Southern Forests Food Council's approach to carbon neutrality.

Your involvement will play a vital role in shaping the future of carbon strategy in the Southern Forests Region.

### Further details:

For further details, please contact Laura Bolitho, General Manager, Southern Forests Food Council at (08) 9772 4180 or [laura@southernforestsfood.com](mailto:laura@southernforestsfood.com).

*This pilot is being delivered by the SFFC as the Southern Forests Node of the South West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and receives funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.*



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



Future  
Drought  
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GROWER  
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and Innovation Hub