



**ABORIGINAL
CARBON FUND**

Reducing Carbon Building Communities Fund

-
- **Mark Gasson – CEO of the Reducing Carbon Building Communities Fund**
 - What is the RCBC Fund?
 - A Fund aimed at helping Aboriginal and non Aboriginal land and lease holders start carbon projects and sell the Australian Carbon Credit Units generated on the voluntary market

-
- Previous CEO of other not for profits, specifically in Community Building
 - Worked for the Australian Antarctic Division as an Antarctic Station Leader
 - Background in Philosophy and Ethics, before becoming a blacksmith...

- **Carbon Storage**

- Carbon is an indispensable building block of life, we are made up of 18% carbon
- Plants have a far higher percentage
- But if we seek to expand the earth's biocapacity then we need to find ways to reduce its release into the atmosphere and more ways to maintain it in living matter

-
- Over the last three centuries by slashing, burning and ploughing we have released between 200 and 250 billion tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere, roughly 35% of all carbon released during that time
 - This release of carbon has impaired the capacity of the earth to turn CO₂ back into living things whilst simultaneously warming our atmosphere
 - So we need to take a holistic view to repairing this damage and the most effective method is to reduce the amount of CO₂ that we continue to put into the atmosphere.

-
- Plants and soil are by far the most effective mechanisms of carbon capture
 - Plants break down 8% of all atmospheric carbon each year
 - Plants sequester carbon, if a plant is burnt it releases all the carbon it has stored in its lifetime
 - So what must aspire to now is to find way to store that captured carbon and there is no better place than in global agriculture

Reducing Carbon Building Communities Fund



ABORIGINAL
CARBON FUND

Vision

To nurture and build a community centred carbon industry

Business Model

Our aim is to build community wealth with social, cultural and environmental values through the ethical trade of carbon credits to individuals, corporate Australia, government agencies and international bodies.

Trusted Partners

Seed funding provided by the Queensland Government with co-investment potential from the Indigenous Land Corporation, Catholic Super (ethical investment), Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Northern Territory Government.

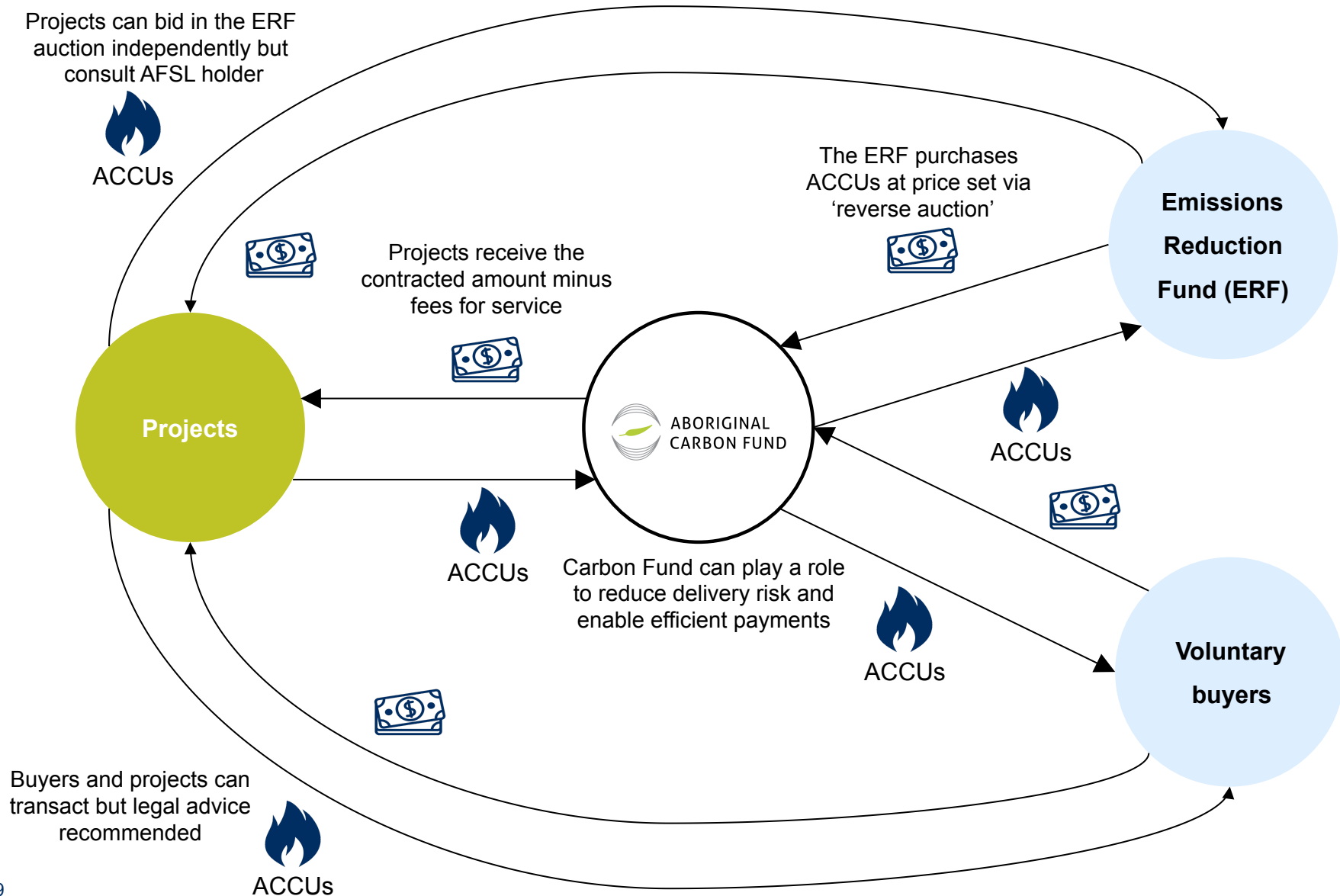
Experienced

AbCF is a recognised industry leader and supplier of carbon credits that values social, cultural and environmental outcomes

Background

- Established in 2010 as a not-for-profit.
- Successfully advised on *Vegetation Management Bill 2016*.
- AbCF co-authored the 2017 Carbon Economies policy:
 - **Delivering Jobs and Growth in Rural, Regional and Remote Queensland through Carbon Economies – Key Policy Principles**
- QG announced *Saving Habitat, Protecting Wildlife and Restoring Land* policy with \$500m Land Restoration Fund.
- AbCF actively involved carbon industry i.e. blue carbon, core benefits standard, training rangers and corporate engagement

Australia Carbon Market



Value Proposition



Fund Value proposition to Buyers and Sellers

RCBC Fund Point of Difference	Buyers	Suppliers
Verified environmental, social & cultural values	●	●
Inter-generational wealth creation (not just cash)		●
Secure supply – reduced risk	●	
Competitive pricing above ERF (not lowest cost abatement)		●
One stop shop; SDG, CSR, RAP, Supply Nation	●	
Carbon farming training (nationally accredited)		●
Marketing and media services	●	●
Up front cash payment		●

Demand for voluntary carbon credits is primarily driven by large corporates seeking to offset their carbon footprint while fulfilling CSR goals

Corporates (~730,000 tons¹)



Institutions & Government (~160,000 tons¹)



- Corporations are generally looking to buy offsets for their operations, as a part of voluntary customer offset programs or corporate social responsibility commitments
- Corporations are attracted to ACCUs as they provide
 1. Desired environmental outcomes i.e. Paris Agreement,
 2. Marketing their brand with the associated corporate social responsibility programs
- Corporate also moving towards meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which are increasingly being used in these discussions.





Aboriginal Carbon Fund & Qantas Future Planet

Why the partnership works for AbCF

- Cultural, social and environmental outcomes valued
- Real investment in Aboriginal people and lands
- Healthy voluntary market (reduced govt reliance)

Why the partnership works for Qantas

- Value beyond carbon
- Supply security
- Unique customer story

Going forward

- Australian landscapes improved management
- Long-term partnership agreements
- Addresses most SDGs and Paris Agreement



AbCF Industry Development Role

- *Blue Carbon Workshop: Protecting and conserving blue carbon coastal wetlands*, University of Melbourne 2018.
- Submission to Northern Territory Government's *Pastoral Lands Legislation Amendment Bill 2017* and joint media statement with the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and PEW Charitable Trust 2018.
- *Indigenous-to-Indigenous Standard*; verification of environmental, social and cultural values standard being developed domestically and submitted for international recognition by Iseal Alliance. (Full members; Fairtrade International, Rainforest Alliance, Forest Stewardship Council). Presentations given at national Savanna Burning and Carbon Farming Forum Darwin 2018, CMI Summit Melbourne 2017/18 and Native Title conference Broome 2018.
- Invitations to work with First Nations in British Colombia 2017 and Ontario 2018, Canada.
- First accredited training course in carbon farming
- Presented at Paris Climate Agreement and UNFCCC in Bonn 2015
- 2015 *Optimising Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in the Emissions Reduction Fund* research project for the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy.
- 2011 AbCF worked with Dr Cathy Robinson (CSIRO) to investigate the development of an Indigenous co-benefits criteria:
 - Robinson, C.J. et al 2011. *Draft Indigenous co-benefit criteria and requirements to inform the development of Australia's Carbon Farming Initiative*. A report for the Australia's Rural Industry Research Development Corporation and Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, People and Communities, Canberra