



‘A ‘tree-in-tree’ cultural modification on Austin Downs. This is one of many features which reveal how the landscape functioned prior to mining and pastoralism - as for all rehabilitation we need to know what good function looks like to achieve restoration.

Why is this Pilot Project needed?

- Societal benefits of ecosystem services from regenerated Southern Rangelands pastoral properties are huge - BUT achieving this regeneration requires a predictable income.
- Pastoral income sustainably generated from living natural capital assets (including carbon credits) isn't reliable.
- Renewable energy generated from non-living natural capital would attract investment & provide a predictable income.
- To prove this a pilot project within WA's Standard Pastoral Lease conditions is required as the Diversification Lease conditions result in land removal from pastoral leases - a disincentive for pastoralists.

Details of audit result can be found on the Accounting for Nature Website



AUSTIN DOWNS STATION

**Using natural capital assets
to create sustainable income for
rangeland regeneration**



Seeking stakeholder support/partner(s) for Pilot Project:

1. Gain approval/partners for use of lease-based natural capital to install renewables eg. agrivoltaics on degraded land.
2. Renewables income is invested in additional ecosystem services (*detailed overleaf*) to improve biodiversity, increase employment, transition to renewables and increase overall lease sustainability.
3. Ecosystem services impact are measured against existing baseline biodiversity metric, other independent metrics are added - co-benefit premiums on carbon (and possibly biodiversity credits) are re-invested into further regeneration activities.

Austin Downs Offers:

- Independently audited biodiversity baseline registered with Accounting for Nature allows project outcome verification.
- Close proximity to markets (mines), internet (renewables powered data hub), roads and facilities.
- Stable family team including by First Nations family members connected to local TO's - engagement includes supporting registering ACH and with bush medicine business development.
- Land management, occupational therapy and health promotion skills/qualifications.
- Carbon project and historical regeneration focus.

Leveraging Renewables

Step 1 Create additional income stream based on natural capital assets

Install renewable energy hub to take advantage of sun, space, wind, geological stability, low fire and flood risk - and proximity to services, including main roads and internet, and to markets including mining operations.



Step 2: Invest in additional ecosystem services

2.1 Provisioning services

- Scale up support to TO's for biodiscovery & development.
- Add onsite uses to renewable hub - data centre, potable water provisioning (eg. Hydroharvester), ammonia supply (Plasmaleap technology)

2.2 Regulating services

- Intensive stocking for seed distribution for mine rehab.
- Use wooden pallets (discarded by minees) to mulch bared earth and decrease radiant heat.
- Rehydrate land via erosion prevention/ remediation earthworks.
- Protect *egenia stokesii* habitat from livestock.
- Create climate haven for Pilbara animals.
- Agrivoltaics regulating soil temperature.

Healing Land And People

2.3 Cultural services :

- Programs for at-risk young individuals (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) - offering mentoring and occupation (eg. film-making, sport, regenerative work, stockwork, construction, vehicle maintenance, life skills) in a meaningful biodiverse environment.
- Contribute expertise, time and access to local junior ranger programs
- Employ locally-based Rangers from TO groups where possible
- Scale up documentation of cultural heritage sites and involve universities.

(Homestead upgrade required for residential components.)

Step 3: Independently audit SDG outcomes including vegetative biodiversity across the property:

- Environmental, economic, social, cultural metrics.
- Re-invest AD share of co-benefit premiums.
- Share audit results with partners and networks.

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