

## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Innovative herd aggregation model leads the way to benefit graziers with smaller landholdings and the environment**

Mount Isa based natural resource management group, **Southern Gulf NRM**, in partnership with carbon project developer, **Natural Carbon**, and carbon market specialists **Corporate Carbon** have developed an innovative 'herd aggregation' to open the Australian carbon market up to graziers with smaller herds.

Utilising the Emissions Reduction Fund's beef cattle herd management method, the aggregation is designed to significantly lower the administrative and compliance fees associated with carbon market participation, something that was previously only financially feasible to graziers with herd of more than 50,000 head.

The Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund 'Kickstarting the Market' funding enabled Southern Gulf NRM to hold workshops in Normanton, Cloncurry and Richmond to provide graziers with the opportunity to have their interests recognised when designing the aggregation model. As a result, all parties have agreed to a pioneering model where there are no upfront fees to participate and significantly reduced risk to participating graziers if an extreme weather event prevents them from meeting target carbon abatement. Additionally, Southern Gulf NRM will provide support to assist graziers in activities to increase their productivity and identify applicable co-benefits through individual property management plans. The project will also apply for the Land Restoration Fund's 2020 Investment Round that opens in late January in an effort to provide additional services to the aggregation.

With the aggregation foundation herd from **Paraway Pastoral Company's** Rockland and Tanbar properties, Natural Carbon and Southern Gulf NRM are now calling for expressions of interest from smaller graziers with 1000+ head to participate in the herd aggregation project. Producers with cattle herds of at least 1000 head that would like to participate in the herd aggregation project can [click here](#) to register their interest, or contact Natural Carbon's Julien Gastaldi (contact details below).

Southern Gulf NRM will be holding workshops in Richmond (February 11), Cloncurry (February 12) and Normanton (February 13) to promote the 'herd aggregation' model and answer any questions graziers might have. If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, please register with Holly Urquhart (contact details below).

**Andrew Maclean, CEO of Southern Gulf NRM**, said markets for carbon and other environmental services are in the early stages of development but likely to grow rapidly. Southern Gulf NRM is pleased to have the opportunity to support producers interested in accessing this market as a means of productive and sustainable grazing businesses.

**Julien Gastaldi, General Manager at Natural Carbon**, said that the herd aggregation project was exactly the kind of innovation the state government hopes to support with the Land Restoration Fund, which aims to expand carbon farming throughout Queensland to drive down emissions, *“Making the carbon market accessible to players of all sizes is essential in reducing emissions and ensuring a prosperous future for Queensland’s agricultural and farming community.”*

**Gary Wyatt, Director at Corporate Carbon** commended the pastoral company’s far-sighted leadership, *“By establishing this aggregation project, Paraway has created a pathway for producers with small herds to realise the benefits of carbon farming, cutting the cost of participation for a smaller producer by as much as 80%.”*

**Paul McDougall, Sustainability Manager at Paraway Pastoral** said that his company was happy to contribute two herds to the project, which he describes as a win-win situation, *“We saw this as a great opportunity to enable smaller producers to be credited for reducing the emissions intensity of their herds, while we benefit from improved productivity and generate carbon credits.”*

**ENDS**

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### **Notes to the editor on 'carbon grazing':**

- Officially known as the 'beef cattle herd management' method, carbon grazing is a method of carbon abatement under the Australian Government's Climate Solutions Fund (formerly Emissions Reduction Fund – ERF) that generates Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) by reducing the emissions intensity of pasture-fed cattle.
- Practices commonly employed in carbon grazing projects include lowering the average age of animals, improving genetics, new infrastructure (water/fencing), or software (such as [MaiaGrazing](#)) to enable more efficient grazing operations, planting improved pastures, improving herd genetics, etc.
- These are all well-known techniques and activities that the cattle grazing industry is keen to implement wherever it can, but also have the side benefit of reducing emissions per kilogram of live weight produced.

### **About Southern Gulf NRM**

Southern Gulf is the Natural Resource Management organisation for the Southern Gulf region of north west Queensland. We work with the community to deliver projects that improve and protect our region's natural resources and to maintain the prosperity of industries that rely on these. The Southern Gulf water catchment region includes all the land whose creeks and rivers run into the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. This encompasses an area of 215,000km square<sup>2</sup>.

### **About Corporate Carbon**

Corporate Carbon is an experienced one stop shop for carbon: from credit creation to sale. We enable companies to monetise carbon abatement activities and secure viable returns in the Australian market. We have developed a range of solutions to facilitate participation in the ERF and are working with many of Australia's leading emissions reduction project developers and owners.

### **About Paraway Pastoral**

Paraway currently operates 27 pastoral enterprises across a number of diversified climatic zones and a range of country types. The company divides its operations into four regions: Northern (consisting of properties in Queensland), Central East (with properties in the New England), Central West (with properties in Western NSW) and Southern (including Southern NSW and Victoria). Collectively the properties have the capacity to carry over 220,000 cattle and 250,000 sheep. Dryland and irrigated cropping exists in each of the regions for the production of hay, silage and grain crops for external sales and feeding livestock.



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