**18/278: Carbon Farming at Ingledene Forest**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * Replanting Ingledene forest will generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (carbon sequestration) under the Plantation Forestry method of the Emission Reduction Fund and help meet future timber needs.
* The proposal will result in net positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.
* There are no known implementation risks associated with this proposal.
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*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.*

**Social**

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| **Access to social networks & community activities**  | * Pine forests provide recreation, education and social benefits to a broad community of user groups in Canberra such as Outward Bound, archery clubs, motor sports, mountain bike riders, mountain running, orienteering, four wheel drive and military trainers and many more.
* Ingledene forest’s location south of Canberra will encourage and allow for social networks and community activities to be realised for many people who cannot access pine forests in north Canberra locations.
* Ingledene forest will help land managers strengthen liaison with neighbours and stakeholders to encourage a cooperative working arrangement on recreation, fire prevention, weed control and stock grazing.
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| **Indigenous and Multicultural** | * Healthy Country is an ACT Parks and Conservation Service initiative to increase staff understanding and awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
* As an actively managed landscape Ingledene forest will provide more and better opportunities for Healthy Country staff to protect and value local Aboriginal sites.
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**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget** | * The 2017-18 budget initiative “Sustainably managing our forests” is producing a dividend to the ACT Government budget of $2 million over the four years to June 2021.
* Ingledene forest requires a modest capital injection of $1.3 million over four years including 5 per cent of capital as recurrent funding to maintain the asset.
* As a biological asset there are no depreciation costs tied to the capital injection to establish Ingledene forest.
* This addition of 490 hectares to the ACT Government’s plantation estate of about 7,500 hectares adds an estimated $1.7 million to the $29.9 million value of the forests as at 30 June 2017.
* While no revenue accrues to the ACT Government budget over the initial four years. Future timber ($10 million) and carbon ($2 million) revenues are worth an estimated $12 million at today’s prices.
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| **Productivity and innovation** | * Ingledene is likely to be one of only a few carbon offsets projects available within ACT borders and could be among the first carbon offset projects in Australia using the Plantation Forestry method of the Emission Reduction Fund.
* The carbon forest project would accumulate Australian Carbon Credit Units and could contribute to the National Emission Reduction Targets.
* Ingledene forest helps grow the ACT’s sustainable timber resources, which supply the local processing, manufacturing and building industries. For example, a shortage of timber tile battens potentially limits market share for innovative solar roof tiles (building integrated photovoltaics).
* ACT Parks and Conservation Service is committed to demonstrated leadership, innovation and accountability by a culture of continuous improvement. We are working towards Australian Forestry Standard certification. A global recognition of product sustainability.
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| **Investment and Economic Impacts** | * Ingledene as a carbon forest will accumulate approx. 195,000 tonnes CO2-e (carbon dioxide equivalent). For a 25 year project this abatement can be used to earn Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) equating to more than $2 million on today’s market.
* Ingledene forest represents a 30-plus year investment in infrastructure and amenity for community-based recreation and is the perfect venue for high impact activities that are not permitted in more sensitive areas of the Territory such as nature reserves and national parks.
* Expanding the commercial pine plantation estate supports local industry and jobs, maintains long-term sustainable timber flows, and increases economic, social and environmental returns. The project is producing net benefits to society.
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**Environmental**

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| **Biodiversity** | * Existing native plantings and remnant trees will be linked to Riparian Zones creating wildlife corridors. Exotic weeds will be actively managed and roads networks maintained and upgraded reducing sources of erosion.
* Plantation management practices enhance biodiversity values by mitigating and actively managing threatening processes, such as pest animals, exotic weeds, pine wildings, poor road maintenance, and wildfire.
* The plantation management plan recognises the ACT Water Strategy, ACT Weeds Strategy, and Actions for threatened species and ecological communities.
* Plantations are included as an asset within the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan ensuring adequate protection of the asset and its surrounding environment.
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| **Heritage** | * The Ingledene site was a plantation for many years prior to 2003 and during that period several heritage sites were identified and protected.
* Operational controls outlined in ACT Forest Code of Practice would again ensure that risk assessment prior to all operations takes place and that any unregistered cultural heritage artefacts or sites are identified and reported to ACT Heritage Council.
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| **Environmental quality** | * Reafforestation of Ingledene will generate carbon offsets under the Australian Government’s Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) enabling the ACT to positively reduce its carbon footprint, showcasing the ACT’s commitment and leadership to reaching National Emission Reduction Targets.
* The Environmental Protection Authority currently issues an Environmental Authorisation (number 0288) for forestry operations in the ACT that include Ingledene forest. Under this authorisation, an Environmental Management Plan identifies high-risk activities and the controls that limit or prevent environmental harm from plantations.
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| **Greenhouse gas emissions** | * Australian Carbon Credit Units generated by this project will be voluntarily surrendered to help the ACT Government meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010.*
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