

IAIA19 Carbon+ Offset Project



earthtrade



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Overview

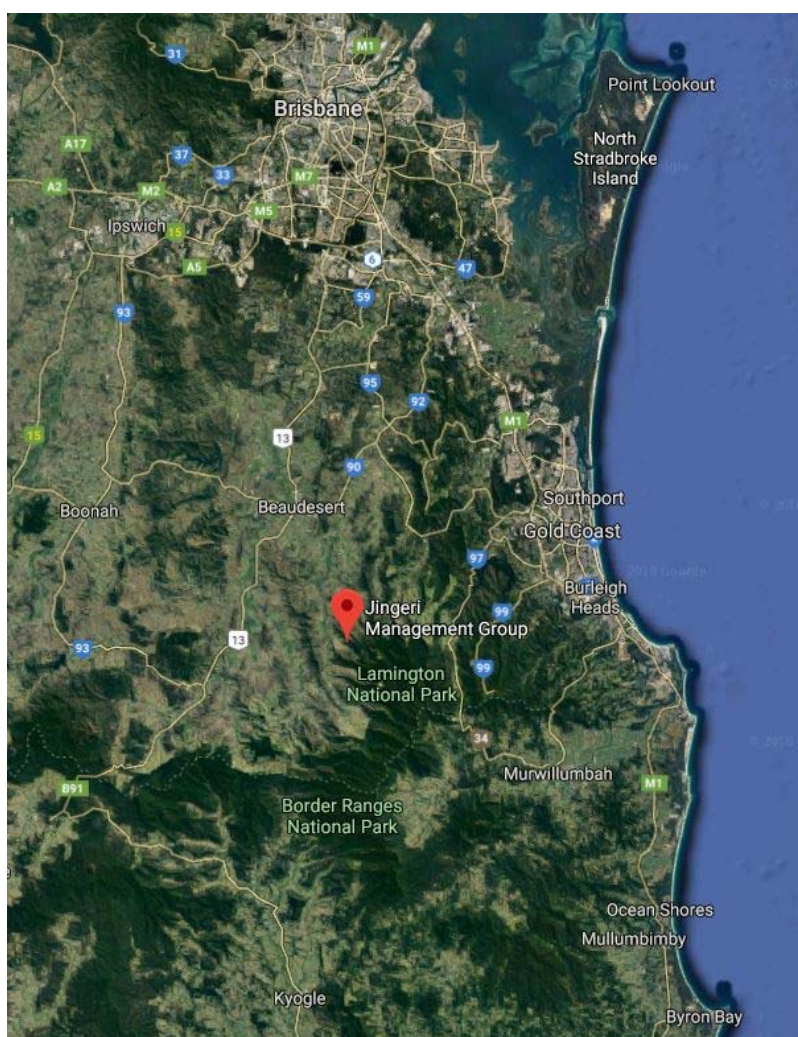
The 39th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA19) will be held in Brisbane, Australia between 29 April and 2 May 2019. The conference organisers have committed to the event being carbon neutral. The specialist Australian offset solutions company, Earthtrade, assisted to source a suitable carbon offset for IAIA19.

In addition to the provision of carbon abatement for IAIA19, this offset project will provide environmental benefits to several *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) EPBC listed threatened fauna and flora species. Notably, the offset area will provide benefits to one of Australia's most iconic unique native animals, the koala. This is a significant and fitting additional outcome for IAIA19's offset, given the place of the koala as the logo for the event.

The offset property

The offset is located on a beef cattle grazing property named 'Jingeri, in the locality of Kerry in the Scenic Rim Region, one hour from Brisbane. Of approximately 372 hectares (ha) in area, the property adjoins Lamington National Park (21,176ha). Jingeri is owned and operated by Tracy and Mark Finnegan, who since acquiring the property have adopted a holistic land management approach to their cattle fattening and breeding operation. This approach enables the conservation of the unique environmental assets of the area and provides the best foundation for a profitable cattle production enterprise. The approach of the Finnegans to land stewardship centres around the four pillars of soil ecosystems, water cycling, carbon and nutrient cycling, and biodiversity¹.

An area of 161ha on Jingeri has already been declared as a Nature Refuge, which adjoins the Lamington National Park. Within the Nature Refuge, an area of 14.5ha is under a Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) project under the auspices of the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund, a regulated scheme that provides a range of incentives for organisations and individuals to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce their emissions.² The modelling for the sequestration provided by the CFI project on Jingeri utilises the Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM) through the Environmental Planting Methodology, based on reforestation through undertaking the planting of appropriate native species.³ The existing carbon offset area on Jingeri has been replanted at a rate of 714 stems/ha.



¹ <http://www.jingeri.com/land-management/>

² <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/About-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund>

³ <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Choosing-a-project-type/Opportunities-for-the-land-sector/Vegetation-methods/Reforestation-by-Environmental-or-Mallee-Plantings-FullCAM>

The offset area for IAIA19

The planned additional offset area for IAIA19 on Jingeri comprises regrowth vegetation adjoining the existing CFI project and Nature Refuge. This area is mapped under the State of Queensland's regulated vegetation mapping as 'Category X', meaning that the landowners are legally able to keep the area cleared of regrowth vegetation to maintain and extend the area of pasture available for livestock grazing purposes. By voluntarily relinquishing this right to clear native vegetation, the landowners are adding to the overall area dedicated exclusively to beneficial environmental outcomes. The additional carbon sequestration that this new area provides will provide the offset to achieve the carbon neutral status of IAIA19 by sequestering approximately 565,000 tCO₂-e by years 5-8, if managed long term to promote the regrowth of mature koala habitat regional ecosystem open forest.⁴

Additional environmental benefits of the IAIA19 offset area

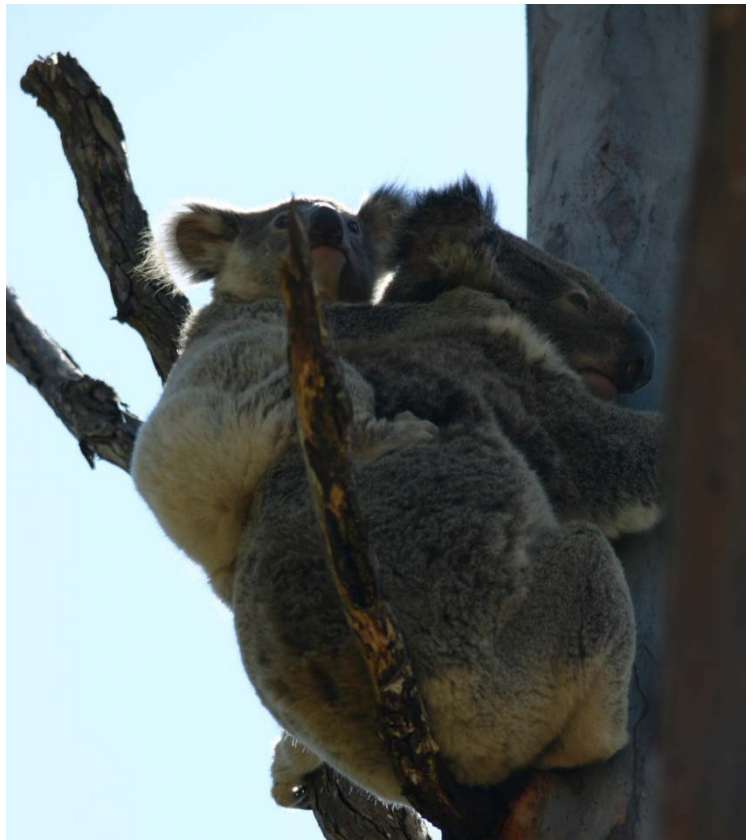
The Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides the framework to protect nationally and international important flora, fauna and ecological communities.

The IAIA19 offset area on Jingeri will provide significant additional environmental outcomes for a number of EPBC listed threatened fauna and flora species.

At a state level, Queensland has several pieces of legislation that provide protection to additional species, primarily the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Since acquiring the property, the Finnegan's have engaged ecological specialists to undertake survey work to determine the presence and extent of various species across the property. In addition to the landowners' own records, these reports⁵ provide evidence of the presence of habitat suitable for a number of important species listed under the national and state legislation mentioned above, including:

- Koalas (*Phascolarctus cinereus*) frequent the Nature Refuge and regrowth areas and have been regularly seen, sometimes with their young.
- Long-nosed potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*) have been recorded in dry ridgeline habitat.
- Cascade treefrog (*Litoria pearsonia*).
- Black-breasted button quail (*Turnix melanogaster*) inhabit the dry vine forest areas of the property.



A koala with her joey. Photo: Tracy Finnegan

⁴Eucalypt open-forests – Regrowth Benefits and Guideline, Dept of Science Information Technology and the Arts, pp. 13, The State of QLD, 2014. Calculations based on 714 stems/Ha reaching 30cm DBH by years 5-8.

⁵ Fauna Survey and Report – Restoring Gondwana Threatened Species Surveys. Finnegan Property – 'Jingeri' Duck Creek Road, Kerry. ddwfauna, Ipswich, 2014; and Final Flora Survey and Report - Restoring Gondwana Threatened Species Surveys. Finnegan Property, Duck Creek Road, Darlington. Gold Coast Botany, Mudgeeraba, 2014.



Cascade treefrog. Photo: ddwfauna

In addition to the benefit provided for the fauna species above, the IAIA19 offset area also provides a new additional buffer area to a critically endangered regional ecosystem comprising semi-evergreen vine thicket with broad-leaved bottle tree (*Brachychiton australis*). The offset area is located beside a proposed community education hub to be situated on the property.

Securing the offset

Under Queensland legislation, offsets can be legally protected by securing them to the title of the property. This will be achieved through the use of a voluntary declaration by the landowners, under the terms of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*. If possible, the new offset area will also be added to the existing declared Nature Refuge area.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the offset

Regular monitoring and reporting on the progress of the offset will be undertaken and provided to the regulator. Typically, annual photo point monitoring is conducted, as well as ecological surveys, to determine the quality of the vegetation and habitat of the offset site. These are carried out each five to seven years. These monitoring actions provide a record of comparability over the term of the offset and the overall progress of the offset towards meeting its planned outcomes.

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