

1240: Jimblebar Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Land clearing)

Subject: Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Land Clearing

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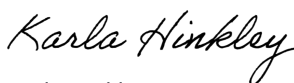
BHP operates the Jimblebar iron ore mining operations located 40km east of Newman in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. BHP proposes to continue mining operations at Jimblebar through to 2060, with land clearing activities ceasing from 2046.

BHP has identified that 3,558 hectares (ha) of ground disturbance (native vegetation clearing) is required to continue supporting the Jimblebar mining operations. This is comprised of 1,674 ha for existing ongoing operations, as well as an additional 1,884 ha for the proposed Jimblebar East extension to mining operations (the Proposal).

BHP commissioned Environmental Technologies & Analytics Pty Ltd (ETA) to estimate the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with this clearing of vegetation at the Jimblebar iron ore mining operations.

This memorandum details the methodology and estimated GHG emissions associated with clearing of vegetation for the Proposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any queries.



Karla Hinkley

Principal Air Quality Specialist | Director

Mobile: 0400 014 430

Email: khinkley@envanalytics.com.au

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1 Introduction

BHP operates the Jimblebar iron ore mining operations located 40km east of Newman in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. BHP proposes to continue mining operations at Jimblebar through to 2060, with land clearing activities ceasing from 2046. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with clearing of vegetation for the mining operations at Jimblebar have been estimated.

Emissions have been estimated using the Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM). The FullCAM model (Richards, 2001), was developed as part of the National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS). It provides fully integrated estimates of carbon pools in forest and agricultural systems. It also accounts for anthropogenic contributions that lead to changes in emissions due to the release of sequestered carbon into the atmosphere.

The FullCAM model was developed and is used in Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts for land use, land use change and forestry sectors. Within the context of estimating GHG emissions for the Project, the use of the FullCAM model offers the following benefits:

- comprehensive carbon accounting and projection capacity for land-based activities
- consistent, scientifically rigorous, and transparent model platform that allows for ongoing improvements in fundamental input data and model calibration
- consistency with land sector¹ reporting within Australia's National Inventory System GHG emissions inventory data for purposes of evaluating Project contribution, noting that clearing emissions are not reportable under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System (NGERS) and so methods for emissions estimation are not prescribed
- commonly adopted for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of resources sector projects throughout Australia.

The scope of work involved configuring the FullCAM model to estimate GHG emissions from clearing of vegetation over the proposed life of mine, based on the currently available indicative clearing schedule provided by BHP.

This memorandum details the methodology and estimated GHG emissions associated with clearing of vegetation for the Project.

1.1 Project overview

The Jimblebar mining operation is located in the eastern Pilbara region, approximately 40 km east of the town of Newman. The dominant land use is pastoral and iron ore mining operations, including BHP's existing mining operations at the Jimblebar and Newman hubs.

BHP proposes to continue operations at Jimblebar to 2060, with land clearing activities ceasing from 2046.. The continuation of Jimblebar's operations will involve above and below water table mining at Jimblebar East (JB East) and other associated activities (the Proposal).

¹ Australia reports GHG emissions and carbon sequestration from land use change and forestry for deforestation, afforestation and reforestation, forest management (commercial timber), cropland and grazing land management and revegetation (DCCEEW, 2023).

The Jimblebar Hub is a significant amendment to consolidate Approved Proposals for individual mines (Jimblebar (MS1126), Orebody 31 (MS1021) and Orebody 18 (MS439 as amended by MS1012)) into the Amended Proposal for the Jimblebar Hub.

New components of the Proposal include (but are not limited to) the following key activities and elements:

- above and below water table mining at Jimblebar East
- increase in mine dewatering at Jimblebar
- new overburden storage areas (OSAs) north of Jimblebar East
- new haul roads and creek crossings (Jimblebar Creek)
- processing plant and conveyor at Jimblebar East
- new beneficiation plant and in-pit tailings storage facilities (TSF) .

Consistent with the hub approach proposed for the Strategic Proposal, the Proposal will use existing infrastructure including processing at the Jimblebar Hub.

The Proposal is located within and adjacent to the Approved Proposals (Jimblebar, Orebody 31 and Orebody 18) within the Jimblebar Hub. The Proposal also includes the amalgamation of the Approved Proposals for the Jimblebar (JB), Orebody 31 (OB31) and Orebody 18 (OB18) mines.

2 Study Approach

Vegetation is a natural carbon sink, wherein plants capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for use in photosynthesis. During its life cycle, carbon is stored in:

- aboveground biomass – stems, branches, bark, leaves
- belowground biomass – coarse roots, fine roots
- soil.

The conversion of land use leading to the elimination of any type of vegetation results in the release of sequestered carbon to the atmosphere. The assessment of potential GHG emissions from land clearing due to a development needs to consider:

- emissions due to breakdown of forest debris
- loss of carbon sink (carbon that could have been sequestered in the future if the vegetation was not cleared)
- emissions due to changes in soil carbon.

In order to determine the impact of the Project, GHG emissions attributed to land clearing were estimated using the FullCAM model. Greenhouse gas emissions for each year of mine operations were estimated for two cases. The 'baseline' case refers to a case wherein no anthropogenic clearing was assumed within the development footprint. The 'progressive clearing' case refers to a case that follows the proposed clearing schedule of the existing and proposed mine operations, discussed in Section 3.2.3.

Greenhouse gas emissions attributed to land clearing are defined as the difference between the 'progressive clearing' case and the 'baseline' case, (i.e., loss of carbon equates to total CO₂ emissions released to atmosphere as a result of Project clearing).

Sequestration from revegetation associated with mine rehabilitation is not included. This is conservative (over-estimates emissions) and is consistent with the approach used for other EIAs.

3 FullCAM

3.1 Operational scenarios

Operational scenarios considered in the assessment include:

- **Scenario 1: Existing only**
 - Business as usual, based on actual clearing schedule projected for current mine development
 - JB, OB18, OB31
- **Scenario 2: Existing and proposed**
 - JB, OB18, OB31 + JB East
- **Scenario 3: Proposed only**
 - JB East only, proposed additional clearing in isolation

As discussed in Section 2, GHG emissions for each year of the mining operations were estimated for ‘baseline’ and ‘progressive clearing’ cases. GHG emissions for each operational scenario assessed are defined as the difference between the two cases (i.e., loss of carbon equates to total CO₂ emissions released to atmosphere as a result of anthropogenic land clearing).

3.2 Model configuration

The FullCAM model incorporates access to a spatial and temporal database of vegetation native to Australia. These include plant growth profiles, debris breakdown percentages, sensitivity to temperature and weather, biomass, initial profiles, biomass, productivity etc. In addition to these, the database also includes information on soil and climate.

FullCAM can be used to determine estimates of carbon stock change and greenhouse gas emissions due to a number of potential events that can affect the density of vegetation in an area. These include planting, thinning, forest fire, treatment, chopper roller, and termite change. These events can be periodically or intermittently scheduled for a time period.

Parameters used in estimating the amount of carbon stored by vegetation and then released due to land clearing are summarised in Table 3-1. Data on climate, vegetation, and soil parameters were downloaded from the FullCAM database. Default values were used, consistent with the recommendations in the FullCAM manual (DISER, 2020). Monthly climate and weather profiles were based on monthly average values from 1970 to 2018, included in the FullCAM database.

FullCAM was configured to simulate carbon pools from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2060. The period initialises using a full year without clearing for all operational scenarios (2023) and extends the simulation period to end of 2060, 15 years after the final proposed clearing event in 2046. This was done in order to simulate ongoing effects of debris breakdown and soil decomposition. Results are presented from 2024 to 2060.

FullCAM does not have the capability to simulate the impact of future climate and weather for projecting emissions over the estimated life of mine. Notwithstanding, FullCAM is the model used for developing Australia’s emissions projections, currently provided out to 2030 (DCCEEW, 2022).

Table 3-1 Input data used in FullCAM configuration

Parameter	Units	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Cleared areas		Existing only	Existing + Proposed	Proposed only
Period of operations	year	2024 - 2045	2024 - 2046	2025 - 2046
Location	latitude	-23.3642°		
	longitude			
	Region	East Pilbara, WA		
Simulation Period	Start	1 Jan 2023		
	End	31 Dec 2060		
Vegetation type ^[2]	-	<i>Acacia Forest and Woodlands</i>		
Maximum aboveground biomass ^[2]	tonnes of dry matter (tdm)/ha	6.6981		
Clay content in soil ^[2]	%	11.8707		
Clearing rate	-	Table 3-3		
Spatial data averaged over	ha	1,674	3,558	1,884
Climate (site) Monthly profile basis	rainfall ^[3]	-	average (1970 – 2018)	
	open-pan evaporation ^[3]			
	temperature ^[3]			
	forest productivity ^[3]			

Notes:

- Simulation based on area to be cleared (Table 3-3), rather than total area within Project footprint.
- Sourced from FullCAM database.

3.2.1 Location

The FullCAM database includes spatial information for numerous bio-geographic factors that affects the calculation of the amount of carbon sequestered at a site, including vegetation characteristics, rainfall, temperature, soil type and evaporation rates.

The FullCAM model was configured for the Jimblebar mine site, approximately located in the centre of the Jimblebar development envelope. Two alternative sites were also modelled, as shown in Figure 3-1. Aside from the locations, all settings and parameters are assumed consistent.

The FullCAM database shows a slight difference in the maximum aboveground biomass and clay content in soil for the different locations. These differences are summarised in Table 3-2, which also shows the statistics for the mass of carbon calculated onsite, aboveground and belowground components.

Notwithstanding the differences between the nominated sites and the alternative locations, carbon content is shown to be relatively similar. Subsequent analysis of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon content estimates have been based on the location representing the centre of the mine sites.

Table 3-2 Model parameters and output summary for the locations used in the sensitivity studies

Parameter		Units	Location	Alt 1	Alt 2
Location		latitude	-23.3642°	-23.3762°	-23.3807°
		longitude	120.1492°	120.0670°	120.2434°
Maximum aboveground biomass		tdm/ha	6.6981	6.38908	5.05102
Clay content in soil		%	11.8707	14.5959	12.142
C mass onsite	Max	tonnes Carbon tC/ha	18.6	17.9	17.0
	Average		17.7	16.9	15.3
	2060		17.2	16.4	14.5
C mass aboveground	Max	tC/ha	6.1	5.9	5.3
	Average		5.4	5.2	4.3
	2060		5.2	4.9	4.0
C mass belowground	Max	tC/ha	12.5	12.1	11.7
	Average		12.3	11.7	11.0
	2060		12.0	11.4	10.5

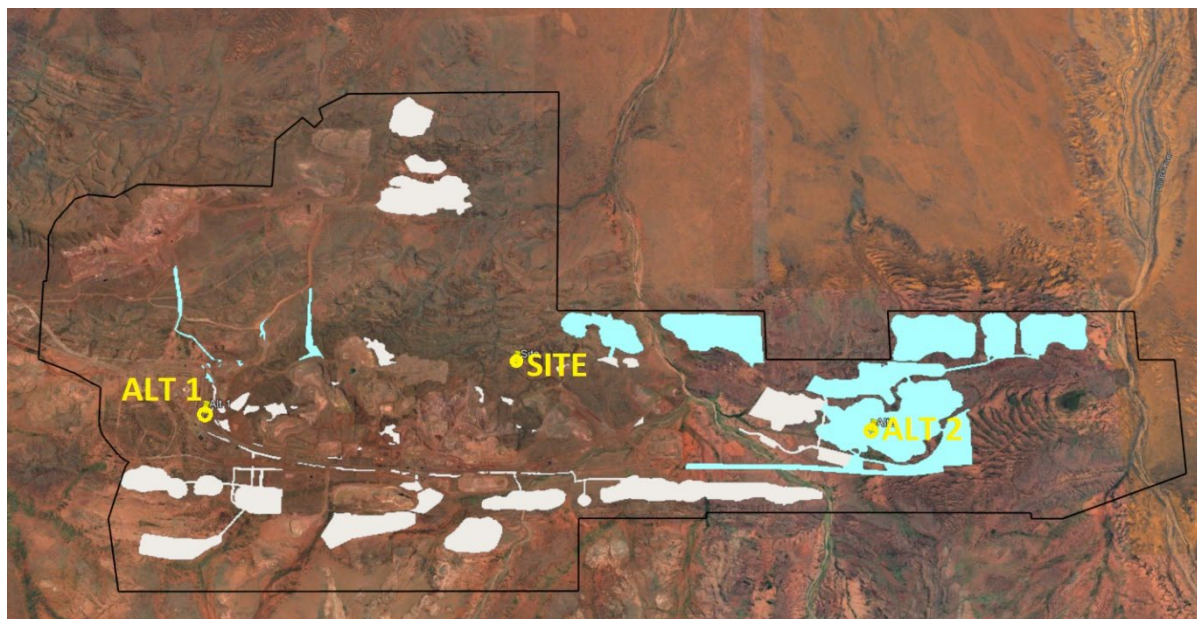


Figure 3-1 Location of points used in sensitivity study

3.2.2 Vegetation type

The FullCAM database identifies *Acacia Forest and Woodland* as the dominant vegetation types for the Jimblebar mine sites. Growth and other properties required by the FullCAM model were downloaded from the database, which include:

- growth profiles
- plant parts – stems, branches, bark, leaves, roots (coarse and fine)
 - carbon percentages
 - turnover
 - standing dead properties
 - atmospheric percentage of breakdown
 - debris composition
- stem density
- soil properties
- initial conditions.

3.2.3 Clearing events

The indicative clearing schedule provided by BHP is detailed in Table 3-3 and shown in Figure 3-2. FullCAM was configured to assign clearing to occur on the first day of each year (1 January). Carbon sink and greenhouse estimates are simulated on a yearly basis and presented as a value at the end of each year (31 December). Rate of clearing used for each scenario is presented in Table 3-3.

While the FullCAM model allows for recovery of the different plant components, the clearing events were configured to assume 100% loss, as detailed in Table 3-4. Biomass-based age adjustment was enabled during the thinning events.

Table 3-3 Progressive forest clearing rates (ha)

Year	Existing	Proposed	Scenario 1 (Existing)	Scenario 2 (Existing + Proposed)	Scenario 3 (Proposed)
2024	35.5	0.0	35.5	35.5	0.0
2025	133	4.7	133.0	137.7	4.7
2026	97.5	199.8	97.5	297.3	199.8
2027	55.4	204.6	55.4	260.0	204.6
2028	34.5	221.6	34.5	256.1	221.6
2029	137.3	117.6	137.3	254.9	117.6
2030	194.9	206.4	194.9	401.3	206.4
2031	91.1	99	91.1	190.1	99.0
2032	38.1	0.0	38.1	38.1	0.0
2033	115.4	30	115.4	145.4	30.0
2034	184.8	0.0	184.8	184.8	0.0
2035	111.5	147.6	111.5	259.1	147.6
2036	34.5	36.7	34.5	71.2	36.7
2037	3.6	56.4	3.6	60.0	56.4
2038	22.3	21.7	22.3	44.0	21.7
2039	150.9	0.0	150.9	150.9	0.0
2040	63.1	16.9	63.1	80.0	16.9
2041	39.9	0.0	39.9	39.9	0.0
2042	27.3	0.0	27.3	27.3	0.0
2043	40.4	0.0	40.4	40.4	0.0
2044	0.0	245.2	0.0	245.2	245.2
2045	63.2	110.6	63.2	173.8	110.6
2046	0.0	165.2	0.0	165.2	165.2
2047 – 2060	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	1674.2	1884.0	1674.2	3558.2	1884.0

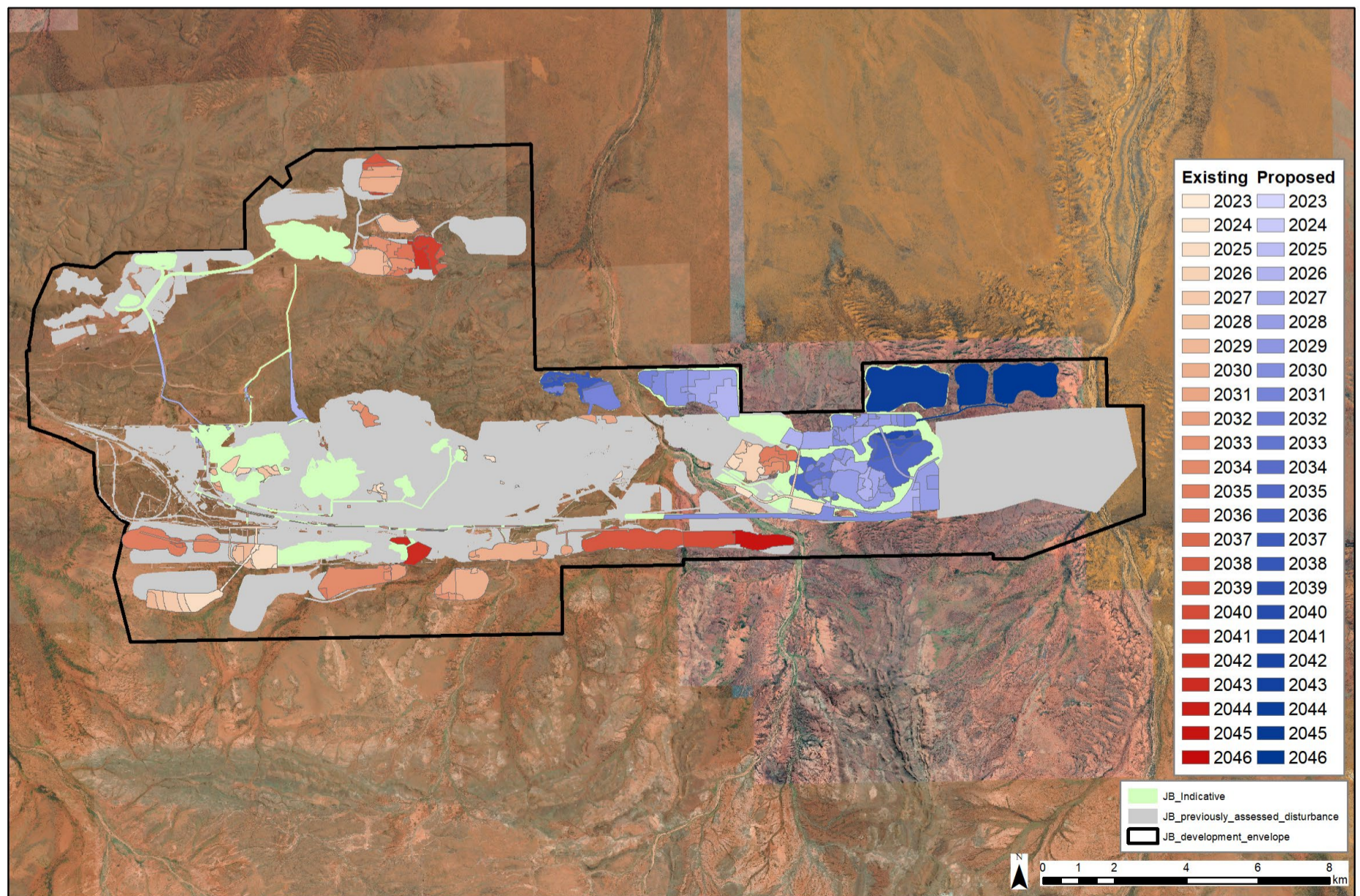


Figure 3-2 Location of clearing areas for existing and proposed operations

Table 3-4 Destination percentages of thinning components

Parameter	Rate of conversion (%)	To
Stems	100%	deadwood
Branches	100%	deadwood
Bark	100%	deadwood
Coarse roots	100%	coarse dead roots
Fine roots	100%	fine dead roots

3.2.4 Initial soil carbon

Preliminary simulation of the modelled location indicated the default initial soil carbon levels were at a much higher level than the balance of plant growth, decay, turnover and decomposition would support, exaggerating soil carbon loss over the simulated period. This is a known limitation of the FullCAM model's soil carbon calibration for more remote areas where limited data is available (*Pers. comm.* T Liersch, Senior Analyst Land Sector Carbon Modelling, DISER. 25 March 2021).

Upon advice of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (formerly Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER)), the initial soil conditions were modified, specifically for the humidified organic matter (HUM) and resistant plant matter (RPM) components. An extended 200-year simulation was used for the model to reach 'steady state' soil carbon levels, that were in turn used as the initial soil conditions for the simulated period.

The default and revised initial soil carbon levels are presented in Table 3-5.

Table 3-5 Default and revised initial carbon content in soil

Scenario	RPM (tC/ha)	HUM (tC/ha)
Default (all scenarios)	3.17118	16.0502
Revised (all scenarios)	1.8784	3.0572

3.3 Model output

3.3.1 Carbon pools

Carbon mass of the above ground and below ground plant components, debris, and forest soil for the 'baseline' cases are detailed in Table 3-6, Table 3-7 and Table 3-8 for Scenario 1, Scenario 2, and Scenario 3, respectively. Carbon mass pools for the 'progressive clearing' cases are detailed in Table 3-9, Table 3-10 and Table 3-11 for Scenario 1, Scenario 2, and Scenario 3, respectively.

Table 3-6 Carbon pools (tC) for Scenario 1 – baseline case

Year	Above ground					Below ground				Total carbon sink	
	plant components				debris	plant components		debris	forest soil	tC	t CO ₂ -e
	stems	branches	bark	leaves		coarse roots	fine roots				
2024	2,409	1,779	675	626	4,466	2,323	661	1,734	16,261	30,934	113,346
2025	2,409	1,779	675	626	4,355	2,323	661	1,713	16,270	30,812	112,900
2026	2,409	1,779	675	626	4,255	2,323	661	1,696	16,272	30,697	112,478
2027	2,409	1,779	675	626	4,163	2,323	661	1,682	16,269	30,588	112,078
2028	2,409	1,779	675	626	4,079	2,323	661	1,665	16,262	30,480	111,683
2029	2,409	1,779	675	626	4,002	2,323	661	1,655	16,251	30,382	111,325
2030	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,933	2,323	661	1,646	16,237	30,290	110,986
2031	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,869	2,323	661	1,639	16,220	30,202	110,664
2032	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,810	2,323	661	1,629	16,202	30,115	110,344
2033	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,757	2,323	661	1,624	16,181	30,036	110,055
2034	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,708	2,323	661	1,619	16,160	29,961	109,781
2035	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,663	2,323	661	1,616	16,137	29,890	109,520
2036	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,621	2,323	661	1,609	16,115	29,818	109,258
2037	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,583	2,323	661	1,606	16,091	29,754	109,022
2038	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,548	2,323	661	1,604	16,066	29,692	108,797
2039	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,516	2,323	661	1,602	16,042	29,634	108,582
2040	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,485	2,323	661	1,597	16,018	29,574	108,363
2041	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,458	2,323	661	1,596	15,993	29,520	108,166
2042	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,433	2,323	661	1,595	15,968	29,469	107,979
2043	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,409	2,323	661	1,594	15,943	29,420	107,799
2044	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,387	2,323	661	1,590	15,919	29,369	107,613
2045	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,367	2,323	661	1,589	15,894	29,324	107,448
2046	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,349	2,323	661	1,589	15,870	29,281	107,289
2047	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,332	2,323	661	1,588	15,845	29,239	107,136
2048	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,315	2,323	661	1,585	15,822	29,195	106,976
2049	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,301	2,323	661	1,584	15,798	29,157	106,834
2050	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,287	2,323	661	1,584	15,774	29,119	106,698
2051	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,275	2,323	661	1,584	15,751	29,083	106,566
2052	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,263	2,323	661	1,581	15,728	29,045	106,426
2053	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,252	2,323	661	1,580	15,706	29,012	106,303
2054	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,242	2,323	661	1,580	15,683	28,979	106,184
2055	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,233	2,323	661	1,580	15,661	28,948	106,069
2056	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,223	2,323	661	1,577	15,640	28,914	105,946
2057	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,216	2,323	661	1,577	15,618	28,885	105,838
2058	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,208	2,323	661	1,577	15,597	28,856	105,733
2059	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,201	2,323	661	1,577	15,576	28,828	105,631
2060	2,409	1,779	675	626	3,194	2,323	661	1,574	15,556	28,798	105,521

Table 3-7 Carbon pools (tC) for Scenario 2 – baseline case

Year	Above ground					Below ground				Total carbon sink	
	plant components				debris	plant components		debris	forest soil	tC	t CO ₂ -e
	stems	branches	bark	leaves		coarse roots	fine roots				
2024	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	9,492	4,938	1,405	3,685	34,561	65,748	240,911
2025	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	9,257	4,938	1,405	3,642	34,581	65,490	239,964
2026	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	9,043	4,938	1,405	3,605	34,586	65,245	239,066
2027	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	8,849	4,938	1,405	3,574	34,580	65,013	238,216
2028	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	8,669	4,938	1,405	3,540	34,564	64,784	237,377
2029	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	8,507	4,938	1,405	3,518	34,540	64,576	236,615
2030	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	8,359	4,938	1,405	3,499	34,510	64,379	235,894
2031	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	8,224	4,938	1,405	3,484	34,475	64,193	235,211
2032	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	8,098	4,938	1,405	3,463	34,436	64,007	234,531
2033	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,985	4,938	1,405	3,451	34,393	63,839	233,917
2034	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,881	4,938	1,405	3,442	34,347	63,680	233,334
2035	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,785	4,938	1,405	3,434	34,299	63,529	232,780
2036	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,696	4,938	1,405	3,420	34,251	63,377	232,221
2037	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,615	4,938	1,405	3,414	34,200	63,240	231,720
2038	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,541	4,938	1,405	3,410	34,148	63,109	231,241
2039	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,472	4,938	1,405	3,406	34,096	62,985	230,785
2040	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,407	4,938	1,405	3,395	34,044	62,858	230,319
2041	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,349	4,938	1,405	3,392	33,992	62,744	229,902
2042	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,296	4,938	1,405	3,390	33,939	62,635	229,503
2043	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,246	4,938	1,405	3,388	33,886	62,531	229,121
2044	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,199	4,938	1,405	3,379	33,834	62,423	228,726
2045	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,157	4,938	1,405	3,378	33,782	62,327	228,374
2046	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,118	4,938	1,405	3,376	33,730	62,235	228,037
2047	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,081	4,938	1,405	3,375	33,678	62,146	227,712
2048	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,046	4,938	1,405	3,368	33,628	62,053	227,371
2049	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	7,016	4,938	1,405	3,367	33,577	61,971	227,070
2050	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,987	4,938	1,405	3,367	33,527	61,892	226,780
2051	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,960	4,938	1,405	3,366	33,478	61,815	226,500
2052	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,934	4,938	1,405	3,359	33,430	61,734	226,203
2053	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,912	4,938	1,405	3,359	33,382	61,663	225,942
2054	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,890	4,938	1,405	3,359	33,334	61,594	225,689
2055	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,871	4,938	1,405	3,358	33,287	61,527	225,445
2056	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,851	4,938	1,405	3,352	33,241	61,456	225,182
2057	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,835	4,938	1,405	3,352	33,196	61,393	224,952
2058	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,819	4,938	1,405	3,352	33,151	61,332	224,730
2059	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,804	4,938	1,405	3,352	33,106	61,273	224,514
2060	5,121	3,782	1,434	1,331	6,790	4,938	1,405	3,346	33,063	61,209	224,279

Table 3-8 Carbon pools (tC) for Scenario 3 – baseline case

Year	Above ground					Below ground				Total carbon sink	
	plant components				debris	plant components		debris	forest soil	tC	t CO ₂ -e
	stems	branches	bark	leaves		coarse roots	fine roots				
2024	2,712	2,003	759	705	5,026	2,615	744	1,951	18,300	34,814	127,565
2025	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,902	2,615	744	1,928	18,311	34,678	127,064
2026	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,788	2,615	744	1,909	18,314	34,548	126,588
2027	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,685	2,615	744	1,892	18,310	34,425	126,138
2028	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,590	2,615	744	1,874	18,302	34,304	125,694
2029	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,505	2,615	744	1,863	18,290	34,194	125,290
2030	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,426	2,615	744	1,853	18,273	34,089	124,909
2031	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,355	2,615	744	1,845	18,255	33,991	124,547
2032	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,288	2,615	744	1,834	18,234	33,892	124,187
2033	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,228	2,615	744	1,828	18,211	33,804	123,862
2034	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,173	2,615	744	1,823	18,187	33,719	123,553
2035	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,122	2,615	744	1,818	18,162	33,639	123,259
2036	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,075	2,615	744	1,811	18,136	33,559	122,964
2037	2,712	2,003	759	705	4,032	2,615	744	1,808	18,109	33,486	122,698
2038	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,993	2,615	744	1,805	18,082	33,417	122,445
2039	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,957	2,615	744	1,803	18,054	33,351	122,203
2040	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,922	2,615	744	1,798	18,027	33,284	121,956
2041	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,892	2,615	744	1,796	17,999	33,224	121,736
2042	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,863	2,615	744	1,795	17,971	33,166	121,525
2043	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,837	2,615	744	1,794	17,943	33,111	121,322
2044	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,812	2,615	744	1,789	17,916	33,054	121,113
2045	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,789	2,615	744	1,789	17,888	33,003	120,927
2046	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,769	2,615	744	1,788	17,860	32,954	120,748
2047	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,750	2,615	744	1,787	17,833	32,907	120,576
2048	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,731	2,615	744	1,783	17,806	32,858	120,396
2049	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,715	2,615	744	1,783	17,780	32,814	120,236
2050	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,700	2,615	744	1,783	17,753	32,772	120,083
2051	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,686	2,615	744	1,782	17,727	32,732	119,934
2052	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,672	2,615	744	1,779	17,701	32,689	119,777
2053	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,660	2,615	744	1,779	17,676	32,651	119,639
2054	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,649	2,615	744	1,778	17,651	32,615	119,505
2055	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,638	2,615	744	1,778	17,626	32,579	119,375
2056	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,628	2,615	744	1,775	17,602	32,541	119,236
2057	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,619	2,615	744	1,775	17,577	32,508	119,115
2058	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,611	2,615	744	1,775	17,554	32,476	118,997
2059	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,603	2,615	744	1,775	17,530	32,445	118,883
2060	2,712	2,003	759	705	3,595	2,615	744	1,772	17,507	32,411	118,758

Table 3-9 Carbon pools (tC) for Scenario 1 – progressive forest clearing case

Year	Above ground					Below ground				Total carbon sink	
	plant components				debris	plant components		debris	forest soil	tC	t CO ₂ -e
	stems	branches	bark	leaves		coarse roots	fine roots				
2024	2,408	1,779	674	626	4,468	2,322	661	1,734	16,261	30,933	113,343
2025	2,393	1,767	670	622	4,387	2,308	656	1,724	16,271	30,798	112,847
2026	2,385	1,761	668	620	4,298	2,300	654	1,709	16,273	30,668	112,371
2027	2,382	1,759	667	619	4,205	2,297	653	1,691	16,270	30,545	111,923
2028	2,381	1,759	667	619	4,117	2,296	653	1,672	16,262	30,426	111,485
2029	2,365	1,747	662	615	4,066	2,281	649	1,668	16,251	30,304	111,037
2030	2,333	1,723	653	607	4,049	2,250	640	1,674	16,236	30,166	110,533
2031	2,326	1,718	651	605	3,982	2,243	638	1,659	16,218	30,042	110,078
2032	2,325	1,717	651	605	3,908	2,242	638	1,639	16,197	29,922	109,639
2033	2,314	1,709	648	602	3,861	2,231	635	1,631	16,175	29,805	109,209
2034	2,286	1,688	640	594	3,849	2,204	627	1,634	16,151	29,674	108,730
2035	2,276	1,681	637	592	3,801	2,194	624	1,622	16,125	29,552	108,282
2036	2,275	1,680	637	591	3,737	2,194	624	1,602	16,097	29,436	107,857
2037	2,275	1,680	637	591	3,677	2,194	624	1,586	16,068	29,331	107,474
2038	2,274	1,680	637	591	3,622	2,193	624	1,574	16,038	29,233	107,113
2039	2,256	1,666	632	587	3,607	2,175	619	1,575	16,008	29,124	106,716
2040	2,253	1,664	631	586	3,561	2,172	618	1,561	15,977	29,022	106,340
2041	2,251	1,663	630	585	3,515	2,171	618	1,550	15,946	28,929	106,000
2042	2,251	1,662	630	585	3,471	2,170	617	1,540	15,914	28,842	105,680
2043	2,250	1,661	630	585	3,432	2,169	617	1,532	15,882	28,758	105,374
2044	2,250	1,661	630	585	3,393	2,169	617	1,522	15,850	28,676	105,074
2045	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,364	2,166	616	1,517	15,818	28,599	104,792
2046	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,330	2,166	616	1,511	15,786	28,528	104,530
2047	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,299	2,166	616	1,506	15,754	28,460	104,281
2048	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,269	2,166	616	1,499	15,723	28,392	104,032
2049	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,243	2,166	616	1,495	15,692	28,331	103,808
2050	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,218	2,166	616	1,492	15,662	28,272	103,594
2051	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,195	2,166	616	1,490	15,631	28,217	103,390
2052	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,173	2,166	616	1,485	15,602	28,160	103,184
2053	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,154	2,166	616	1,483	15,572	28,110	102,998
2054	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,136	2,166	616	1,481	15,544	28,061	102,821
2055	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,119	2,166	616	1,480	15,515	28,015	102,650
2056	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,103	2,166	616	1,476	15,488	27,967	102,476
2057	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,089	2,166	616	1,475	15,460	27,925	102,319
2058	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,075	2,166	616	1,474	15,433	27,884	102,169
2059	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,063	2,166	616	1,474	15,407	27,844	102,025
2060	2,246	1,659	629	584	3,051	2,166	616	1,470	15,381	27,803	101,875

Table 3-10 Carbon pools (tC) for Scenario 2 – progressive forest clearing case

Year	Above ground					Below ground				Total carbon sink	
	plant components				debris	plant components		debris	forest soil	tC	t CO ₂ -e
	stems	branches	bark	leaves		coarse roots	fine roots				
2024	5,119	3,781	1,433	1,331	9,495	4,937	1,404	3,686	34,561	65,747	240,907
2025	5,100	3,767	1,428	1,326	9,296	4,918	1,399	3,655	34,582	65,471	239,896
2026	5,073	3,747	1,420	1,319	9,130	4,892	1,392	3,632	34,588	65,193	238,877
2027	5,056	3,734	1,416	1,315	8,957	4,876	1,387	3,603	34,581	64,925	237,894
2028	5,041	3,723	1,412	1,311	8,791	4,861	1,383	3,568	34,565	64,655	236,906
2029	5,012	3,701	1,403	1,303	8,669	4,833	1,375	3,553	34,541	64,390	235,933
2030	4,946	3,653	1,385	1,286	8,626	4,769	1,357	3,562	34,510	64,093	234,845
2031	4,932	3,642	1,381	1,282	8,480	4,755	1,353	3,528	34,471	63,824	233,859
2032	4,930	3,641	1,380	1,282	8,318	4,754	1,352	3,482	34,426	63,566	232,915
2033	4,915	3,630	1,376	1,278	8,199	4,739	1,348	3,458	34,377	63,320	232,014
2034	4,880	3,604	1,366	1,269	8,127	4,705	1,338	3,450	34,325	63,064	231,074
2035	4,856	3,586	1,360	1,262	8,035	4,682	1,332	3,432	34,270	62,814	230,160
2036	4,854	3,585	1,359	1,262	7,904	4,680	1,331	3,392	34,211	62,578	229,293
2037	4,853	3,584	1,359	1,262	7,782	4,680	1,331	3,364	34,149	62,364	228,510
2038	4,852	3,584	1,359	1,262	7,671	4,679	1,331	3,340	34,086	62,162	227,771
2039	4,829	3,567	1,352	1,256	7,611	4,657	1,325	3,335	34,022	61,953	227,003
2040	4,824	3,563	1,351	1,254	7,516	4,652	1,323	3,309	33,958	61,751	226,264
2041	4,823	3,562	1,350	1,254	7,424	4,651	1,323	3,290	33,892	61,569	225,596
2042	4,822	3,561	1,350	1,254	7,338	4,650	1,323	3,273	33,825	61,396	224,965
2043	4,820	3,560	1,350	1,253	7,260	4,648	1,322	3,260	33,759	61,232	224,364
2044	4,808	3,551	1,346	1,250	7,206	4,637	1,319	3,249	33,693	61,059	223,730
2045	4,799	3,544	1,344	1,248	7,151	4,628	1,316	3,242	33,627	60,899	223,143
2046	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	7,093	4,622	1,315	3,233	33,561	60,746	222,581
2047	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	7,027	4,622	1,315	3,220	33,495	60,602	222,054
2048	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,965	4,622	1,315	3,204	33,430	60,458	221,528
2049	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,909	4,622	1,315	3,195	33,366	60,329	221,054
2050	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,857	4,622	1,315	3,188	33,302	60,206	220,604
2051	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,809	4,622	1,315	3,182	33,239	60,089	220,174
2052	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,763	4,622	1,315	3,171	33,177	59,970	219,738
2053	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,722	4,622	1,315	3,166	33,115	59,863	219,347
2054	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,684	4,622	1,315	3,163	33,055	59,761	218,973
2055	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,649	4,622	1,315	3,159	32,996	59,663	218,615
2056	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,615	4,622	1,315	3,151	32,937	59,563	218,247
2057	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,585	4,622	1,315	3,149	32,880	59,473	217,917
2058	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,557	4,622	1,315	3,147	32,824	59,387	217,601
2059	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,531	4,622	1,315	3,145	32,768	59,304	217,297
2060	4,794	3,540	1,342	1,246	6,505	4,622	1,315	3,139	32,714	59,217	216,980

Table 3-11 Carbon pools (tC) for Scenario 3 – progressive forest clearing case

Year	Above ground					Below ground				Total carbon sink	
	plant components				debris	plant components		debris	forest soil	tC	t CO ₂ -e
	stems	branches	bark	leaves		coarse roots	fine roots				
2024	2,711	2,002	759	705	5,027	2,614	744	1,951	18,300	34,814	127,564
2025	2,707	1,999	758	704	4,910	2,611	743	1,931	18,311	34,674	127,049
2026	2,688	1,985	753	699	4,832	2,592	737	1,923	18,315	34,525	126,506
2027	2,674	1,975	749	695	4,751	2,578	733	1,912	18,312	34,379	125,971
2028	2,660	1,965	745	692	4,674	2,565	730	1,896	18,303	34,229	125,422
2029	2,646	1,955	741	688	4,603	2,552	726	1,885	18,290	34,086	124,896
2030	2,613	1,930	732	679	4,576	2,519	717	1,887	18,274	33,927	124,312
2031	2,605	1,924	729	677	4,498	2,512	715	1,868	18,253	33,782	123,782
2032	2,605	1,924	729	677	4,410	2,512	715	1,843	18,229	33,644	123,276
2033	2,601	1,921	728	676	4,338	2,508	713	1,828	18,202	33,515	122,804
2034	2,594	1,916	726	674	4,277	2,501	711	1,816	18,174	33,390	122,345
2035	2,580	1,905	722	671	4,234	2,488	708	1,810	18,145	33,262	121,878
2036	2,579	1,905	722	671	4,167	2,487	707	1,791	18,114	33,142	121,436
2037	2,578	1,904	722	670	4,106	2,486	707	1,778	18,081	33,032	121,035
2038	2,578	1,904	722	670	4,049	2,486	707	1,766	18,048	32,929	120,658
2039	2,573	1,900	720	669	4,004	2,481	706	1,760	18,014	32,828	120,288
2040	2,572	1,899	720	669	3,956	2,480	705	1,748	17,980	32,729	119,924
2041	2,571	1,899	720	669	3,909	2,480	705	1,740	17,946	32,639	119,596
2042	2,571	1,899	720	669	3,867	2,479	705	1,733	17,911	32,555	119,285
2043	2,571	1,899	720	668	3,827	2,479	705	1,727	17,877	32,474	118,990
2044	2,559	1,890	716	665	3,813	2,467	702	1,727	17,843	32,383	118,657
2045	2,553	1,885	715	664	3,788	2,462	700	1,725	17,809	32,300	118,351
2046	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,763	2,456	699	1,721	17,775	32,218	118,051
2047	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,728	2,456	699	1,714	17,741	32,142	117,773
2048	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,695	2,456	699	1,705	17,707	32,067	117,496
2049	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,666	2,456	699	1,700	17,674	31,998	117,247
2050	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,639	2,456	699	1,696	17,640	31,934	117,010
2051	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,614	2,456	699	1,692	17,607	31,872	116,784
2052	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,590	2,456	699	1,686	17,575	31,810	116,555
2053	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,568	2,456	699	1,684	17,543	31,753	116,349
2054	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,548	2,456	699	1,681	17,511	31,700	116,152
2055	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,530	2,456	699	1,680	17,480	31,648	115,964
2056	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,512	2,456	699	1,675	17,450	31,596	115,771
2057	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,496	2,456	699	1,674	17,420	31,548	115,598
2058	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,481	2,456	699	1,673	17,390	31,503	115,432
2059	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,468	2,456	699	1,672	17,361	31,459	115,272
2060	2,547	1,881	713	662	3,454	2,456	699	1,668	17,333	31,414	115,106

3.3.2 Future sequestration losses

To indicate the carbon that could have been sequestered at the Project site in the future if the vegetation was not cleared (loss of carbon sink), the changes over time in the carbon pools simulated by FullCAM for the 'baseline' scenario were analysed. The changes in carbon pools for each of the scenarios are presented in Figure 3-3.

The declining total carbon pool is driven by predicted soil carbon loss in the absence of commensurate increase in above and below ground plant components, presumably because the vegetation is assumed within the model to have reached full maturity.

To what extent the total carbon pool actually declines at the Project site over time is uncertain, however the FullCAM simulated result does suggest that the loss in future sequestration potential, if vegetation was not cleared at the Project site, is not expected to be overly significant.

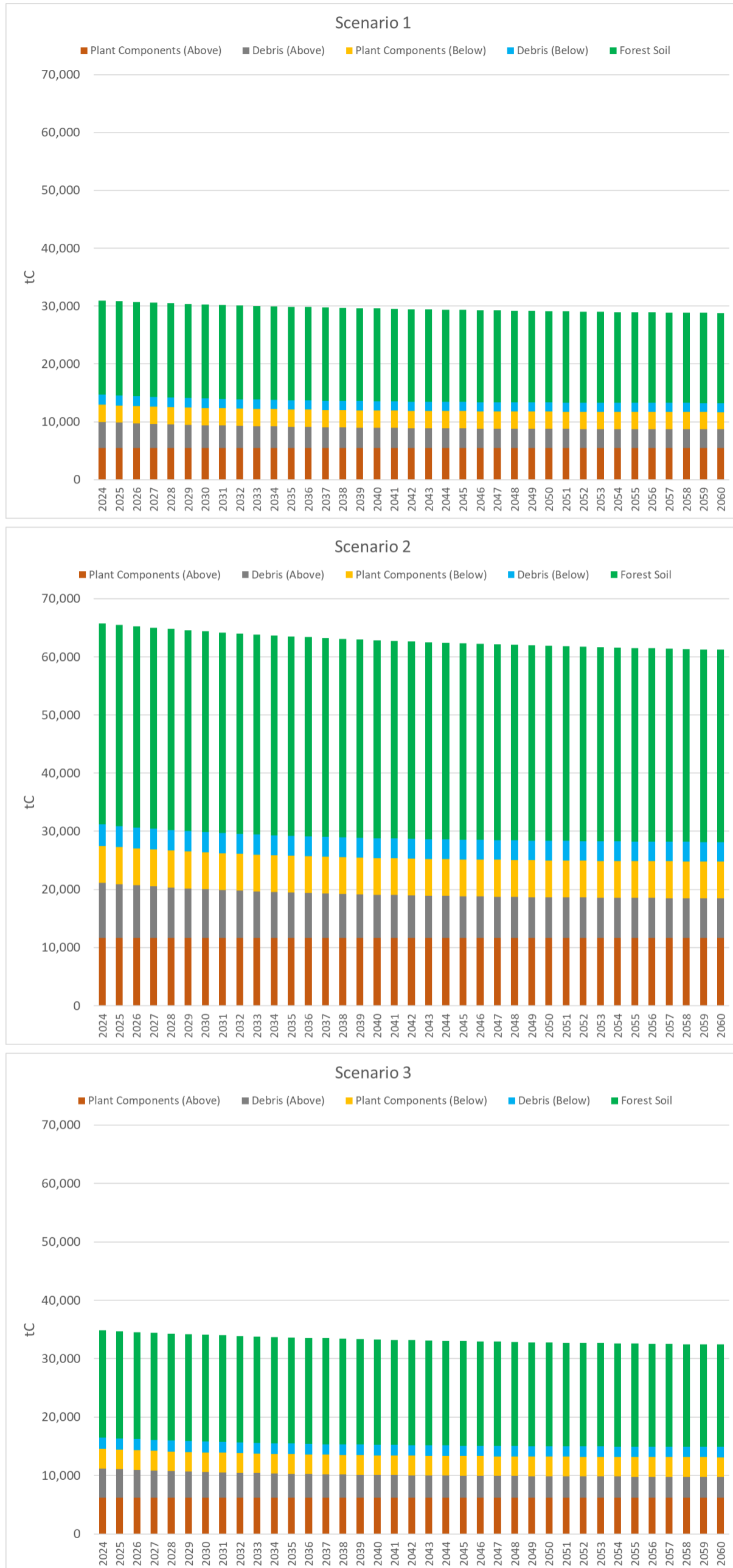


Figure 3-3 Change in carbon pools – baseline case

3.3.3 Disturbance of topsoil

An apparent limitation of FullCAM when applied to mining as the land-use changes, is that it is limited to events that affect the density of vegetation in an area (refer to Section 3.1), but does not consider soil carbon loss associated with topsoil removal and stockpiling. Theoretically, it is possible for the disturbance of topsoil to promote an increase in the rate of decomposition of soil organic carbon that is released to atmosphere as CO₂. However, considering the generally low soil organic carbon in Western Australian soils by global standards (DAF, 2013), and the concurrent process of return of organic matter to soil from cleared vegetation decay within the topsoil stockpiles, it is reasonable to assume a neutral effect on soil carbon at the Project site in relation to the disturbance of topsoil.

This is based on our understanding that cleared vegetation will be retained at the Project site within topsoil stockpiles, and will not be burnt, disposed to landfill or otherwise removed from the Project site.

3.4 Greenhouse gas emissions

FullCAM was used to estimate greenhouse emissions resulting from progressive clearing. Greenhouse gas emissions occur due to direct release of carbon to the atmosphere or the subsequent migration of carbon content from plant components to debris to forest soil, which are also eventually released into the atmosphere. While these processes occur naturally in the life cycle of forests, the clearing of trees are expected to result in an increase in the volume of forest material breakdown and the succeeding soil decomposition. The mass of carbon sequestered to existing vegetation is also calculated.

Sequestration from revegetation associated with mine rehabilitation is not included. This is conservative (over-estimates emissions) and is consistent with the approach used for other EIAs.

Table 3-12 shows a summary of greenhouse gas attributed to progressive land clearing for the three operational scenarios assessed. These are calculated as the difference of the carbon pools between the relevant 'progressive clearing' case (Table 3-9 to Table 3-11) and the 'baseline' case (Table 3-6 to Table 3-8). Loss in carbon mass and greenhouse gas emissions for each year of simulation is shown in Table 3-13 to Table 3-15, and provides details on the contribution of the plant components, debris, and forest soil during the life of mine and the following years. The rate of emissions is comparable to the rate of clearing.

Table 3-13 to Table 3-15 show that the carbon content of debris and forest soil during the 'baseline' cases are lower than the 'progressive clearing' cases for some years, leading to a reduction in carbon and greenhouse gas emissions as a result of clearing. This could be attributed to the significant increase in the volume of plant components being migrated to forest litter to soil, resulting in an increase in the carbon mass.

Greenhouse gas emissions attributable to operations of the three scenarios are summarised in Table 3-12.

Table 3-12 Carbon pools (tC) and Greenhouse Gas emissions from progressive clearing

Period	Parameter	Units	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
	Area cleared	ha	1,674	3,558	1,884
2024 – 2060 (All Years)	Total Carbon loss	tC	995	1,992	997
	Total GHG emissions	t CO ₂ -e	3,646	7,299	3,653
	Average GHG emissions	t CO ₂ -e / ha	2.18	2.05	1.94

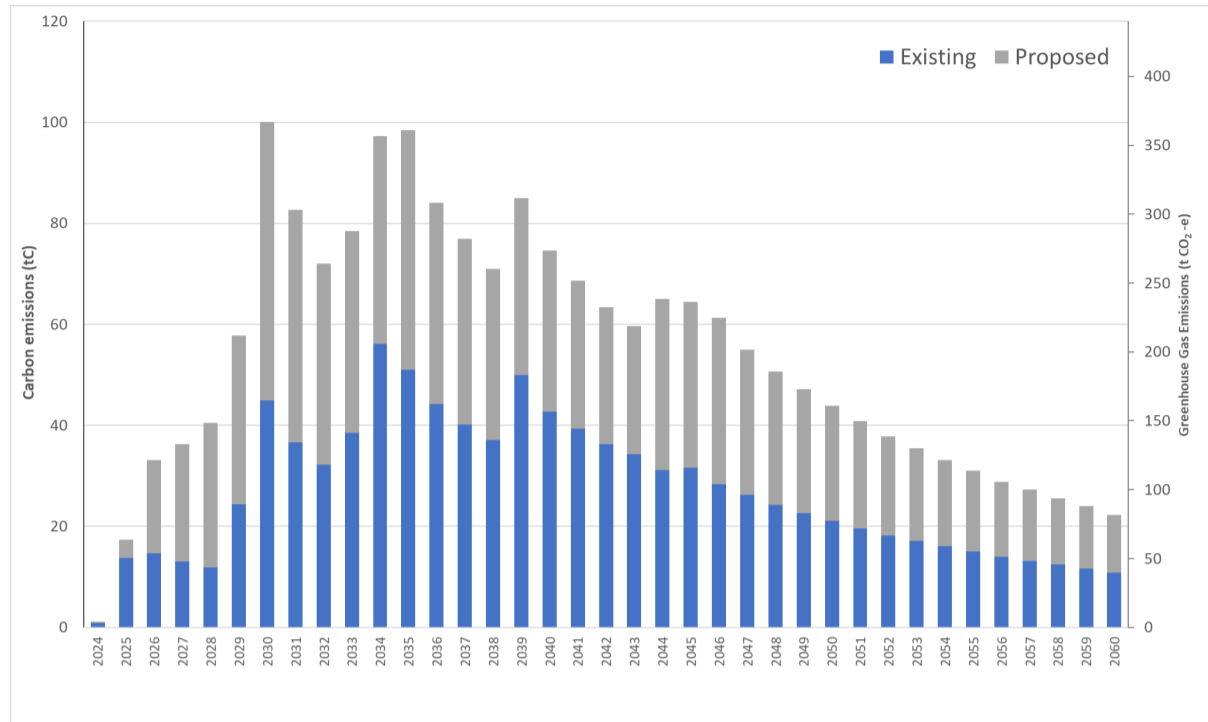


Figure 3-4 Estimated carbon (tC) and greenhouse gas (t CO₂-e) emissions due to progressive land clearing

Table 3-13 Loss of carbon (tC) in biomass attributed to progressive forest clearing of Scenario 1

Year	plant components						debris breakdown		soil decomposition	Total Loss of Carbon			Area cleared ha
	stems	branches	bark	leaves	coarse roots	fine roots	above ground	below ground		tC	t CO ₂ -e	t CO ₂ -e / ha	
2024	1	1	0	0	1	0	-2	-1	0	1	3	0.10	35.50
2025	15	11	4	4	15	4	-29	-10	-1	14	50	0.38	133.00
2026	8	6	2	2	8	2	-12	-2	0	15	54	0.55	97.50
2027	3	2	1	1	3	1	1	3	0	13	48	0.86	55.40
2028	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	4	1	12	43	1.26	34.50
2029	16	12	4	4	15	4	-25	-7	0	24	89	0.65	137.30
2030	32	24	9	8	31	9	-53	-15	0	45	165	0.84	194.90
2031	7	5	2	2	7	2	3	8	2	37	134	1.48	91.10
2032	1	1	0	0	1	0	15	11	2	32	118	3.10	38.10
2033	11	8	3	3	11	3	-6	3	2	39	141	1.22	115.40
2034	28	21	8	7	27	8	-37	-8	2	56	206	1.11	184.80
2035	10	7	3	3	10	3	3	8	4	51	187	1.68	111.50
2036	1	1	0	0	1	0	22	14	5	44	162	4.69	34.50
2037	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	13	5	40	147	40.81	3.60
2038	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	10	6	37	136	6.09	22.30
2039	18	14	5	5	18	5	-17	-3	5	50	183	1.21	150.90
2040	3	2	1	1	3	1	16	9	6	43	156	2.48	63.10
2041	1	1	0	0	1	0	18	10	7	39	144	3.61	39.90
2042	1	0	0	0	1	0	18	9	7	36	133	4.86	27.30
2043	1	1	0	0	1	0	16	7	7	34	126	3.11	40.40
2044	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	7	7	31	114	0.00	0.00
2045	3	2	1	1	3	1	10	4	7	32	116	1.84	63.20
2046	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	7	28	104	0.00	0.00
2047	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	5	7	26	96	0.00	0.00
2048	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	4	7	24	89	0.00	0.00
2049	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	7	23	83	0.00	0.00
2050	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	7	21	77	0.00	0.00
2051	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	7	20	72	0.00	0.00
2052	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	7	18	67	0.00	0.00
2053	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	7	17	63	0.00	0.00
2054	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	6	16	59	0.00	0.00
2055	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	6	15	55	0.00	0.00
2056	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	14	51	0.00	0.00
2057	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	6	13	48	0.00	0.00
2058	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	6	12	46	0.00	0.00
2059	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	6	12	43	0.00	0.00
2060	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	11	40	0.00	0.00
All Years	163	120	46	42	157	45	144	104	175	995	3,646	81.93 (sum) 2.18 (average)	1,674

Table 3-14 Loss of carbon (tC) in biomass attributed to progressive forest clearing of Scenario 2

Year	plant components						debris breakdown		soil decomposition	Total Loss of Carbon			Area cleared ha
	stems	branches	bark	leaves	coarse roots	fine roots	above ground	below ground		tC	t CO ₂ -e	t CO ₂ -e / ha	
2024	1	1	0	0	-3	1	0	-1	0	1	4	0.00	35.50
2025	19	14	5	5	-37	19	5	-13	-1	17	64	0.00	137.70
2026	27	20	8	7	-47	26	7	-14	-1	33	121	0.00	297.30
2027	17	13	5	4	-21	16	5	-2	0	36	133	0.00	260.00
2028	15	11	4	4	-14	14	4	1	1	40	148	0.00	256.10
2029	30	22	8	8	-40	29	8	-7	1	58	212	0.00	254.90
2030	66	49	18	17	-104	63	18	-27	0	100	367	0.00	401.30
2031	14	11	4	4	10	14	4	18	4	83	303	0.01	190.10
2032	2	1	0	0	36	1	0	25	6	72	264	0.06	38.10
2033	15	11	4	4	6	15	4	12	6	78	287	0.02	145.40
2034	35	26	10	9	-32	34	10	-1	6	97	356	0.01	184.80
2035	24	18	7	6	-4	23	7	10	8	98	361	0.01	259.10
2036	2	1	1	1	41	2	1	25	10	84	308	0.07	71.20
2037	1	1	0	0	41	1	0	23	11	77	282	0.09	60.00
2038	1	1	0	0	37	1	0	19	12	71	260	0.13	44.00
2039	23	17	6	6	-9	22	6	1	11	85	311	0.04	150.90
2040	5	3	1	1	30	4	1	16	13	75	273	0.08	80.00
2041	2	1	0	0	34	2	0	16	13	69	251	0.17	39.90
2042	1	1	0	0	33	1	0	14	14	63	232	0.26	27.30
2043	2	1	0	0	29	2	0	11	14	60	219	0.18	40.40
2044	12	9	3	3	6	12	3	2	14	65	238	0.03	245.20
2045	9	7	3	2	13	9	3	5	14	64	236	0.04	173.80
2046	5	4	2	1	20	5	2	8	14	61	225	0.05	165.20
2047	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	11	14	55	201	0.00	0.00
2048	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	9	14	51	186	0.00	0.00
2049	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	8	14	47	173	0.00	0.00
2050	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	7	14	44	161	0.00	0.00
2051	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	6	14	41	150	0.00	0.00
2052	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	4	14	38	138	0.00	0.00
2053	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	4	13	36	130	0.00	0.00
2054	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	3	13	33	122	0.00	0.00
2055	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	3	13	31	114	0.00	0.00
2056	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	2	12	29	105	0.00	0.00
2057	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	2	12	27	100	0.00	0.00
2058	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	2	11	26	94	0.00	0.00
2059	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	1	11	24	88	0.00	0.00
2060	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	1	11	22	82	0.00	0.00
All Years	327	242	92	85	285	316	90	207	349	1,992	7,299	61.97 (sum) 2.05(average)	3,558

Table 3-15 Loss of carbon (tC) in biomass attributed to progressive forest clearing of Scenario 3

Year	plant components						debris breakdown		soil decomposition	Total Loss of Carbon			Area cleared
	stems	branches	bark	leaves	coarse roots	fine roots	above ground	below ground		tC	t CO ₂ -e	t CO ₂ -e / ha	ha
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0.00	0.00
2025	4	3	1	1	4	1	-8	-3	0	4	13	2.85	4.70
2026	19	14	5	5	18	5	-36	-12	-1	18	68	0.34	199.80
2027	14	11	4	4	14	4	-22	-5	0	23	85	0.42	204.60
2028	14	10	4	4	13	4	-18	-2	0	29	105	0.47	221.60
2029	14	10	4	4	13	4	-15	0	1	33	122	1.04	117.60
2030	34	25	9	9	32	9	-51	-12	0	55	202	0.98	206.40
2031	7	6	2	2	7	2	7	11	2	46	169	1.70	99.00
2032	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	14	3	40	146	0.00	0.00
2033	4	3	1	1	4	1	11	10	4	40	146	4.88	30.00
2034	7	5	2	2	7	2	6	7	4	41	151	0.00	0.00
2035	14	10	4	4	13	4	-7	2	4	47	174	1.18	147.60
2036	1	1	0	0	1	0	20	11	5	40	146	3.98	36.70
2037	1	1	0	0	1	0	19	10	6	37	135	2.39	56.40
2038	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	9	6	34	124	5.73	21.70
2039	5	3	1	1	4	1	8	5	6	35	129	0.00	0.00
2040	1	1	0	0	1	0	14	6	6	32	117	6.92	16.90
2041	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	7	29	108	0.00	0.00
2042	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	6	7	27	99	0.00	0.00
2043	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	5	7	25	93	0.00	0.00
2044	12	9	3	3	12	3	-11	-4	6	34	124	0.51	245.20
2045	6	5	2	2	6	2	3	2	6	33	120	1.08	110.60
2046	5	4	2	1	5	2	5	3	7	33	121	0.73	165.20
2047	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	7	29	105	0.00	0.00
2048	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	5	7	26	97	0.00	0.00
2049	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	5	7	25	90	0.00	0.00
2050	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	7	23	84	0.00	0.00
2051	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	7	21	78	0.00	0.00
2052	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	7	20	72	0.00	0.00
2053	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	7	18	67	0.00	0.00
2054	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	6	17	63	0.00	0.00
2055	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	6	16	59	0.00	0.00
2056	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	15	54	0.00	0.00
2057	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	6	14	51	0.00	0.00
2058	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	6	13	48	0.00	0.00
2059	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	6	12	45	0.00	0.00
2060	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	5	11	42	0.00	0.00
All Years	164	121	46	43	158	45	141	103	174	997	3,653	35.19 (sum) 1.94 (average)	1,884

3.5 Source contribution

The contribution of the plant components, debris, and soil to the total carbon and greenhouse gas emissions is summarised in Table 3-16. Plant components are shown to be the main source of greenhouse gases, contributing approximately 40% from above ground plant components and 22% from below ground plant components. Above ground and below ground debris contribute 12% and 11%, respectively. Soil decomposition contributes 16% of the total greenhouse gas emissions.

The contribution of the sources for the operations of the three scenarios are shown in Figure 3-5, showing that the source contribution is generally consistent for the operational scenarios assessed.

Table 3-16 Source contribution for operations of the scenarios (2024 – 2060)

Parameter		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
plant components	stems	18%	18%	16%
	branches	13%	13%	12%
	bark	5%	5%	5%
	leaves	5%	5%	4%
	coarse roots	17%	17%	16%
	fine roots	5%	5%	5%
debris	above ground	12%	11%	14%
	below ground	11%	11%	10%
soil	decomposition	15%	15%	17%

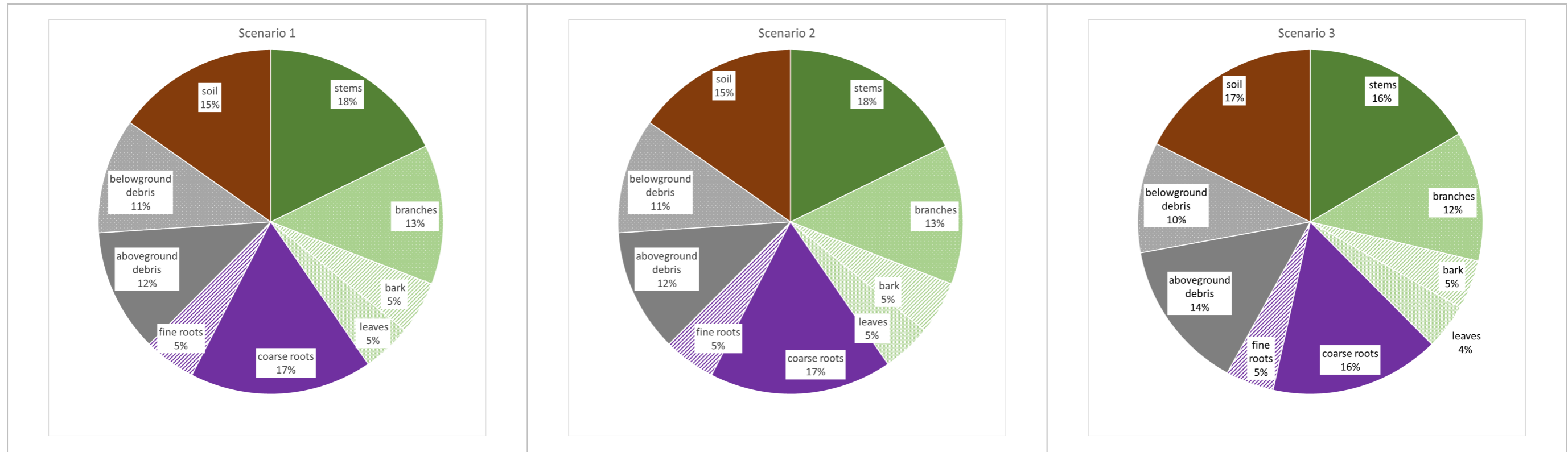


Figure 3-5 Contribution (%) of plant components, debris, and soil to greenhouse gas emissions (2024 - 2060)

4 Alternative approach

Road traffic and transport authorities in Australia and New Zealand have formed a Transport Authorities Greenhouse Group (TAGG). A key action of the TAGG is to develop a common methodology for the estimation, reporting and minimisation of GHG emissions associated with road construction, operation and maintenance (TAGG, 2013).

The methodology developed by the TAGG offers an alternative approach for estimating GHG emissions from vegetation clearing. Although developed for clearing during road construction, the approach has also been adopted for EIA more generally. It should be noted that the method uses a much more conservative estimation approach, assuming that all carbon pools are entirely lost as emissions of CO₂ at the time of clearing. In so doing, the method does not take into account the various decomposition rates of the different biomass components. Furthermore, sequestration from re-vegetation and existing vegetation are not accounted for.

GHG emissions are estimated based on an emission factor dependent on vegetation type and an assumed potential maximum biomass class. The methodology is considered a conservative estimation approach, in that it takes into account the carbon that exists in the vegetation at the time of clearing and carbon that could have been sequestered in the future if the vegetation was not cleared. The key assumptions are:

- all carbon pools (i.e., woody, non-woody, debris and soil) are removed
- all carbon removed is converted to CO₂ and released to the atmosphere
- sequestration from revegetation of a site is not included.

Emissions are estimated based on the total cleared area and an emission factor of 113 t CO₂-e/ha, based on an assumption of Class G vegetation (open shrubland) and a potential maximum biomass class range of 0-50 tdm/ha.

A comparison of the greenhouse gas emissions estimated using FullCAM and the TAGG (2013) methodology is presented in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Comparison of estimated greenhouse gas emissions (t CO₂-e) using different methods

Time Period	FullCAM	TAGG
Scenario 1	3,646	189,162
Scenario 2	6,898	402,054
Scenario 3	3,653	212,892

5 References

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