



AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

Developing a market mechanism to buy and sell biodiversity services to improve environmental outcomes and provide new financial opportunities for farmers.



What is it?

The Carbon + Biodiversity pilot is a key part of the Australian Government's \$34 million Agriculture

Stewardship Package and will reward farmers for the stewardship of their land, storing carbon and contributing to biodiversity conservation.

The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot is available in six Natural Resource Management regions:

- Burnett-Mary in QLD
- Central West in NSW
- North Central in Vic
- *NRM North in Tasmania*
- Eyre Peninsula in SA
- South West in WA

Are you eligible?

To be eligible, projects must:

- be on freehold land predominantly used for agriculture purposes;
- be within the 8 municipal areas within the northern Tasmanian NRM region;

- plant diverse (min 2 tree species and 4 shrub species) native plantings between 5 and 200 hectares;
- be new plantings undertaken in 2022 – no ground preparation or other work started yet;
- be a project without any other government support;
- be protected and maintained for either a 25 year or 100-year permanence period; and
- be on land that has been clear of forest/plantation vegetation for the last 7 years, or 5 years if the land has changed hands during that time.

Will your application be successful?

Project applications will be approved or declined based on a benefit-cost score relating to:

- benefit to regional biodiversity conservation; and
- cost of the project.

Tips for project success:

- larger planting areas;

- project in areas with important/threatened species and ecosystems;
- planting local vegetation communities;
- planting area includes and protects mature native trees;
- planting close to fresh water; and
- projects electing the 100-year permanence option.

The process

1. Submit an online application by 11 June.
2. Applicants will be advised of success.
3. Successful applicants will be given an offer of a biodiversity payment.
4. If the applicant accepts the offer, they [register](#) the project as a carbon offset with the Clean Energy Regulator.
5. Applicant needs written consent from all interest holders at this stage.
6. Applicant becomes 'Project Manager' and receives 50 per cent of the biodiversity payment.
7. Project Manager then undertakes the planting project.
8. In years 2 to 3 of the project, the Project Manager receives the remainder of the biodiversity payment.
9. Within the first 5 years, the Project Manager arranges carbon reporting and auditing processes and receives Australian carbon credit units (ACCU)s. Can then report and receive ACCUs at intervals.
10. Project manager can then keep or trade ACCUs in government auctions, with private buyers or other markets.

Steps to apply

1. Read through the pilot documents that are available from www.agriculture.gov.au this

includes lots of guides, fact sheets and a video.

2. Start the application at www.AgSteward.com.au.
3. Select the Northern Tasmanian NRM region.
4. Map the planting area(s) using the tool provided.
5. Add your applicant and project details.
6. Add planting details and project costs (guidelines available).
7. Choose whether to bid lower than your estimated costs.
8. Submit the application!

Future of the program/projects

- Potential reduction in number of audits and/or audit costs.
- Changes in the price of carbon.
- The next Agriculture Stewardship pilot will focus on remnant vegetation protection/enhancement.
- Farm Biodiversity Certification Scheme.

For more information

General enquiries about the program can be directed to agstewardship@awe.gov.au or the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment contact number at 1800 900 090.

The Australian Government Website is:

agriculture.gov.au/agriculturestewardship

NRM North is supporting the delivery of the pilot in northern Tasmania. For regional support and project design, contact:

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