

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

Northern and Yorke region



Do you have land on your farm that has limited productive value? There is now an opportunity to plant trees in these areas and obtain an income for the revegetation work.

The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot (the Pilot) is a component of the Australian Government's Agriculture Stewardship Package, which has been developed in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU).

The Pilot will trial a market-based mechanism that will reward participating farmers for improving environmental outcomes on agricultural land. Through the Pilot, farmers will establish biodiverse environmental plantings (revegetation) between 5 and 200 hectares on their property and be rewarded for increasing on-farm biodiversity and carbon abatement.

Participants who establish and maintain biodiverse environmental plantings in accordance with the C+B planting protocol will be eligible to receive payments for biodiversity outcomes. They will also be able to receive Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) for the carbon sequestered in the plantings under the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) and can sell the credits to the Australian Government or other buyers.

Farmers are required to protect and maintain the credited carbon stocks (plantings) for a minimum of 25 years, consistent with the ERF guidelines.

For detailed information about the project, head to [the project webpage](#).

Who is running the Pilot?

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board (the Board) is facilitating the delivery of the Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot with farmers in the Northern and Yorke region.

If you are interested in submitting an expression of interest through the Agriculture Stewardship Portal, the Board can assist you with:

- Localised information on the Northern and Yorke Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot
- Discussing and identifying potential project area/s
- Regional ecosystem information to identify land types and vegetation classifications
- Proposal development
- Gathering information in the [pre-application checklist](#) to help your application process

Before applying, you must read and understand the Agriculture Stewardship Program [Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot Guidelines](#) (recommended to open in Chrome, Firefox or Safari).

The Board recommends that you seek independent professional advice about your participation in this pilot, particularly financial, legal and agronomic.

Who can apply?

Farmers in the Northern and Yorke region who predominantly use their freehold land for agricultural purposes. In this pilot, farmers are defined as either grazing livestock or growing a crop. There is no need for the farm to be the applicant's primary source of income or turn a profit. To be eligible, you must also satisfy additional requirements outlined in the [Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot Guidelines](#).

Eligibility criteria

You must satisfy the following requirements:

- Your land must be predominantly used for agricultural purposes
- You must be the owner, leaseholder or exclusive native title holder of the land
- You must meet the participant obligations under the ERF as outlined [here](#)
- You must commit to protect and look after your C+B Project for at least 25 years once established
- You must act with the utmost good faith in your engagements with the pilot
- You cannot submit more than three applications in total. If you submit more than three applications, only the first three will be considered.

Your project:

- Must be located entirely within a pilot region
- Can comprise one or more planting areas and the planting areas associated with a project can be located on different properties and different land titles but must be located within the same C+B Pilot region
- Must cover an area between 5 and 200 hectares
- Must satisfy the eligible offset project registration requirements under the ERF, including the requirements under the ERF environmental planting method and must not already be registered, see [ERF environmental planting method guide](#)

- Activities must not have commenced
- Environmental plantings must be carried out in accordance with the [C+B planting protocols](#). The protocols specify the location, dimensions, configuration and composition of plantings and are designed to ensure projects generate the maximum possible biodiversity benefits. The protocols contain rules about the proximity of plantings to houses and other infrastructure.
- Must not receive financial or other support for the establishment of the plantings under another federal, state/territory or local government environment program, other than the ERF.

Timelines and payments

1. Complete the application through the web portal accessed [here](#).

Applications are now open and close: 3 March 2022

Late applications will not be assessed but can be considered for future rounds of the pilot should sufficient funds remain.

2. Applications will be assessed and successful applicants within four weeks.
3. Successful applicants to sign participation agreement (April-June 2022). Participation agreement should be signed within 4 weeks of receiving notice of a successful application and funds up to \$10,000 are provided to seek professional advice. Legal and financial advice must be sought before signing C+B project agreement.
4. ERF registration must be completed before signing the C+B Project agreement and receiving the first biodiversity payment. Registration can take up to 90 days.
5. Sign C+B project agreement and receive first Biodiversity Payment (80%) offer by signing within 6 months of receiving notice of a successful application. To sign and receive the first payment evidence of unconditional ERF registration must be provided.
6. Undertake plantings within 9 months of signing the C+B project agreement, unless an extension is provided due to drought or other factors that are beyond the control of the applicant.
7. End date of project agreement 25 years after the C+B project agreement is signed. ERF Permanence end date 25 or 100 years from ERF project start date.

More details on the activity timeframes once project applications are submitted can be found in the [Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot Guidelines](#).

Key contacts

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