



Understanding carbon potential on Country

Carbon farming projects can create jobs and provide opportunities to get out on Country. Projects can also help heal Country and strengthen culture. To be eligible, carbon projects need to meet certain project method requirements set by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER).¹ As a first step, you will need to identify whether the unique characteristics of your Country are suited to a particular carbon method.

Get to know your land	Example environmental planting project
What is the previous land use?	→ Your land has been clear of forest for at least five years.
How much land is available for your project?	→ The minimum size is 0.2 hectares, but very small project areas are unlikely to generate enough Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) to cover project costs.
What is the average annual rainfall?	→ If you use mallee eucalyptus species, annual rainfall must be below 600 mm. There is not a maximum rainfall for projects with mixed native species, but make sure the rainfall is enough for those species to grow.
Is your land prone to natural disasters?	→ Flooding, bushfire, drought and other extreme weather events can impact the number of ACCUs generated by your project. If land is prone to natural disasters, consider additional prevention measures.

¹ The Clean Energy Regulator (CER) is the Australian Government body responsible for administering the ACCU Scheme. Find out more about the CER and the types of ACCU Scheme methods at [cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](https://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au)



The CSIRO web-based tool [looc-c.farm](#) can help you quickly assess which ACCU Scheme methods might be right for your land and provide an estimate of carbon potential based on project size, land condition, and method. Once you have identified a carbon project method, make sure you meet the minimum requirements before you start planning your project.

To be eligible to undertake an environmental planting or any other carbon project you must:

- 1 Have the legal right to undertake a project and receive ACCUs. This means hold title to the land, or have written agreement with the landowner to carry out the project.
- 2 Receive consent from eligible-interest holders. This could include the landowner or titleholder, leaseholder, banks with mortgages on land, Crown land ministers and Native Title claimant.
- 3 Not have undertaken any project activities including site preparation and planting.
- 4 Make sure your project is new and additional to existing activities. Project activities that will happen regardless of having a carbon project or not, or are required to be carried out by law, are not eligible.

Before registering a project, be sure to discuss your project with your community. If you are a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), make sure the project aligns with your Community Land and Business Plan (CLBP). Projects may be subject to Land Dealing provisions under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. LALCs can contact NSW Aboriginal Land Council (alc.org.au) for information and advice about CLBPs or Land Dealing requirements.

Environmental Plantings Pilot program

The CER has an Environmental Plantings Pilot program for mixed-species block plantings up to 200ha. The pilot provides streamlined registration, reporting and crediting processes. Instead of audits the CER will use geospatial tools to confirm the planting activity has happened, verify the carbon sequestered over time, and monitor for disturbances. The program provides options to sell ACCUs to the Australian Government at a fixed price, by auction or to the voluntary market. Visit www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au or search 'Environmental Plantings Pilot Factsheet' to find out more.

