Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

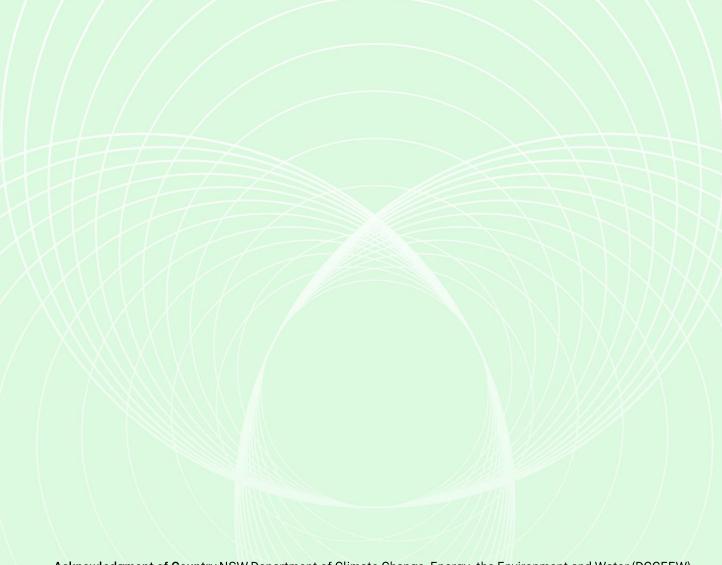
Planting Plan Guide

For the North Coast region



July 2024





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1 Creating a planting plan

As part of your Living Carbon grant application, you are required to submit a completed planting plan that is endorsed by an on-ground support partner.

We have developed a <u>planting plan template</u>, with accompanying regional guides (like this one) and an optional workbook, to help you prepare and complete a planting plan that meets the requirements of the NSW Government's Living Carbon grant program. You must complete your planting plan by using our <u>template</u>. If your grant application is successful, the plan will continue to guide you as you implement your project.

1.1 The guide and workbook

This **planting plan guide** (guide) explains how to complete the **planting plan**. It contains general information about grant activities, regional specifications, worked examples and links to useful resources. There is a unique planting plan guide for each eligible grant region. You must refer to <u>the guide specific to **your region**</u> when planning your Living Carbon project and completing your planting plan. This planting plan guide is for use in the North Coast region.

The **planting plan workbook** (workbook) is an optional tool you can use to help you complete your planting plan. It is an excel workbook/file that contains blank and pre-formatted versions of the tables in the plan. You **do not** need to submit the workbook with your Living Carbon grant application.

If you decide to use the workbook, we recommend that you fill out each table in the workbook first, then copy and paste the completed tables into your planting plan. When you do this, please paste the contents only without the formulas.

Do this by:

- 1. selecting/highlighting the completed table in the workbook
- 2. right click and select "Copy"
- 3. go your planting plan, place the cursor where you want to paste/insert the table and right click on it
- 4. select "Paste Special"
- 5. select the first icon on the left to "Keep Source Formatting (K)" (



Please ensure you use the planting plan guide for the region where your project is located.

1.2 Planting plan layout

The guide and planting plan are organised in numbered sections that (in most cases) correspond to one another, to make it easy to move between documents.

The planting plan is divided into 4 key themes:

- Section 2: Property Information
- Sections 3 and 4: Your carbon revegetation project and project activities
- Sections 5 and 6: Target co-benefits and environmental accounting
- Sections 7 and 8: Project delivery and budgets and contractors

1.3 Maps

The following 3 maps will form part of your planting plan:

- 1. Landscape map (section 2.3 of the plan): your project in the context of the surrounding landscape.
- 2. Planting map(section 3.3 of the plan): your project details and features.
- 3. Biodiversity Map (section 5.2 of the plan): biodiversity records to help justify the choice of your intended biodiversity co-benefits

You must also attach a detailed version of each map in your online Smarty Grants application, as an image or PDF file that is larger than A4 size.

You may use your preferred website or software to create the maps. The on-ground support partner can also assist you with developing maps for your planting plan. Some suitable and free software available to the public for mapping includes Google Earth, Google Maps and SixMaps. A list of useful mapping tools and resources for mapping biodiversity and vegetation is in Appendix C: Resources.

The maps should include sufficient detail and accuracy to enable checking of measurements, such as the size (in hectares) of individual planting sites and the length of proposed fence construction. All maps should have a compass, legend and scale bar.

2 Property information

This section captures the basic information about the property and the planting project location within the surrounding landscape. Please provide the information below in section 2 of your planting plan.

2.1 Property

Information about the property your project is located on.

- Name of owner (and property manager if applicable)
- Address
- Property area (ha)
- Enterprise(s) run on the property
- Year the current landholders came into ownership of the property
- Natural resource management (NRM) (Local Land Services) region

2.2 Local landscape

Information about the environment on and surrounding the property that your project is located on.

- Average annual rainfall (mm)
- Soil type(s) on the property, particularly where you plan to plant
- Nearest remnant, existing or regenerated native vegetation on the property and adjacent land that your project could connect to (show on the Landscape map)
- Key natural features (waterbodies, elevated areas, rocky outcrops, unique ecosystems, etc.)

2.3 Landscape map

Please provide a satellite/aerial image map of your property and surrounding land showing:

- Important features that impact connectivity and co-benefits, such as nearby bushland, national parks, creeks, rocky outcrops.
- The total carbon estimation area(s) (CEA) for your registered environmental planting carbon project (show the entire project/your total CEA(s), even if your Living Carbon project's area is only a part it).
- Sites with existing revegetation, or other planned revegetation sites.

If you have determined reference sites for your Environmental Account with Accounting for Nature (AfN), and those sites occur within your landscape or planting map, please mark where they are. An example of the landscape map is in Figure 1.

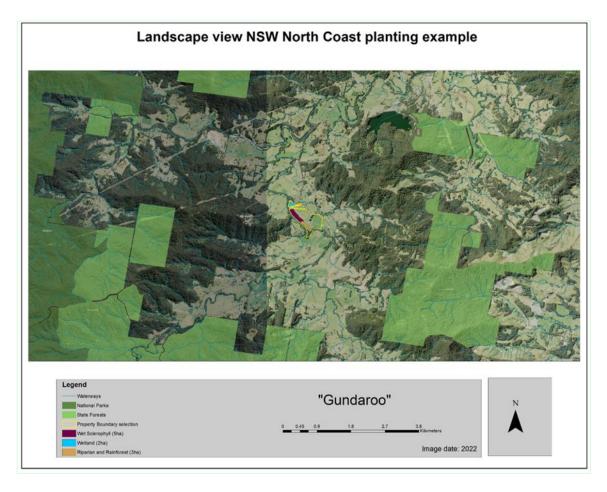


Figure 1: Example Landscape map

3 Carbon revegetation project

Designing your project

When planning your project, you need to consider:

- the carbon project requirements of the Environmental Planting Pilot (EPP) <u>method or</u> equivalent
- the Living Carbon grant guidelines
- the regional recommendations for planting projects
- the unique needs of your project such as tree protection materials

As a carbon project using the approved Environmental Planting Pilot (EPP) or equivalent method under the ACCU Scheme, your revegetation project must meet a series of requirements such as a minimum planting density of 200 stems per hectare.

Your project also needs to comply with the Living Carbon grant requirements, such as a minimum total project area of 10 hectares, and recommendations for your region such as the minimum size for an individual site planted.

Table 3.a below outlines differences between some of the requirements of the ACCU Scheme's EPP method for carbon projects and the Living Carbon grants. The Living Carbon grant requirements include regional specifications and recommendations, and at times exceed the ACCU Scheme's requirements.

You should check the rules for EPP projects prior to registering your carbon project as they may change after the publication of this guide. Also note that while the EPP method is scheduled to expire on 30 September 2024, it is expected to be replaced by an equivalent very similar method.

Table 3.b below sets out information about the regional specific recommendations for the design of a revegetation project. We have provided a list of useful Regional specific resources for planning revegetation and biodiversity project in the North Coast region.

Please note, while Table 3.a and Table 3.b list the design requirements for your Living Carbon project, you may have to meet higher thresholds to achieve your biodiversity co-benefit target. More detail on co-benefits is in section 5.

Refer to Appendix B: Regional resources and information for further information and advice Choosing your project site in the North Coast, the different design elements your plantings sites including their shape, position, species composition and Choosing your species for different vegetation forms.

Table 3.a: Project design requirements

The design requirements for planting projects using the Environmental Planting Pilot method and seeking funding under Living Carbon grants.

Design element	ACCU Scheme – EPP method	Living Carbon – North Coast region
Total (aggregate) project area (ha)	0.2 – 200 ha	10 - 200 ha
Minimum size of each planting site or CEA	N/A	As per regional requirements in Table 3.b, below.
Biodiversity benefit will be measured	No	Yes
Revegetation method	Native plants can be established via planting tubestock and/or direct seeding.	Native plants can be established via planting tubestock.
Plant species composition	A mixture of tree and shrub species that are native to the local area and sourced from seed stock.	As per regional requirements in Table 3.b below.
Structure	Must reflect the structure and composition of the local native vegetation community or what it would have been.	
Species height and crown cover	Must have the potential to reach at least 2 metres in height and achieve a crown cover of at least 20% over the planting area.	
Seed and tubestock sources	Must be sourced from within the natural distribution of the species and must be appropriate to the biophysical characteristics of the proposed CEA.	
Planting density	Must consist of more than a single row of stems, have a stocking density of more than 200 stems per hectare and a density that will achieve forest cover.	As per regional requirements in Table 3.b below.
Shape of plantings	Any shape or configuration provided it consists of more than a single row.	Plantings can be either linear corridors, block plantings or a combination of both.
Position of plantings	Land must have been cleared for 5 years. Must not be undertaken under powerlines, within easements where it may interfere with utilities, or on crown land without approval. Plantings can occur along riparian, lower, mid or upper slopes.	

Table 3.b: Regional specific recommendations for the design of revegetation projects

Design element North Coast specifications and recommendations				
Minimum size of	Individual planting sites may be a minimum of 1 hectare.			
an individual planting site	The shape and size of planting sites should be designed to achieve the best area to edge ratio configuration.			
Plant species composition and diversity	Plantings must be a mix of tree and shrub species that reflect the structure and composition of the local native vegetation community that once occurred on the planting site.			
	Refer to Appendix B for information about developing a planting species list and lists of suitable plant species for different vegetation types/formations			
	A minimum of 8 tree species (canopy – will grow to approximately 15 m or higher) and 6 small tree and/or tall shrub (mid-storey) species should be included in the planting mix of any planting site.			
Planting density	Planting densities will vary between planting sites depending on their condition and the vegetation formations that previously occurred at the site.			
	Overall: plantings should comprise a minimum of five rows with plantings at 3 – 4 m between each row and plants spaced at a minimum 3 m along the row to achieve a planting density of approximately 800 stems / ha.			
	For rainforest plantings: 2 m – 2.5 m between each row and plants spaced 2.5 m – 3 m along the row.			
Shape of plantings	Linear plantings should be a minimum of five rows (and > 25 m total width). Refer to Appendix B: Regional resources and information for advice when planning the shape of your plantings.			
Position of plantings	 The position of plantings should be designed to maximise: biodiversity benefits, for example connecting existing habitats, and planting along riparian, lower slopes, and flood plains, and/or farm production benefits, for example as a wind break for the property, habitat for pollination vectors or pest management species. 			
Site conditions	There must be easy access/good accessibility at each planting site for people, equipment and any machinery required for planting and maintaining a site. See Choosing your project site in the North Coast in Appendix B for more.			

Regional specific resources

Below is a list of resources that will support land managers in North Coast to understand, plan and implement a carbon and/or a revegetation project that has biodiversity co-benefits. Remember, there is also support available by getting in touch with North Coast Local Land Services (LLS).

• North Coast LLS website and information about Natural Capital

- North Coast Natural Resource Management Plan
- Recognising habitat features Hunter LLS
- Revegetation Tips and Tricks LLS
- Online vegetation mapping SEED or Trees Near Me NSW
- How to restore Koala habitat on your property

Additional resources are available in Appendix C: Resources. Connections to local Aboriginal Communities can be facilitated by LLS if requested by the applicant. Advice on your patch from local Indigenous people would be beneficial to planning your overall outcome.

3.1 Registered carbon project

Please record information about your ACCU Scheme carbon project's registration with the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) in section 3.1 of your planting plan:

- ACCU Scheme Project ID: the CER provided this to you at registration and will use it to identify your project in the CER's public carbon project register.
- ACCU Scheme Project name: the name of your project registered under the ACCU Scheme.
- Total carbon estimation area (ha): the total area (ha) of your carbon project, calculated from the map of the carbon estimation area(s) for your registered carbon project.
- Total area of the CEA that will also be part of your Living Carbon project (ha).
- Project description: the description of your project when you registered it under the ACCU Scheme.

Note: You can use this guide to help plan your carbon project before registering it with the ACCU Scheme. If you do this, then you can leave this section blank and return to complete it once you have the relevant information for your registered carbon project.

3.2 Living Carbon project

Once you have reviewed Table 3.b and Appendix B: Regional resources and information, complete Table A in your planting plan. This will provide an overview of your Living Carbon project's design and demonstrate that it aligns with regional specifications for planting projects in North Coast. Include the Plant Community Types (PCT) that you will be planting at each site. A worked example of Table A is provided below to show you how to fill in this table.

Then complete the check list in your planting plan to confirm that your design meets the requirements of this guide (refer to Table 3.b above). See the example check list in Figure 2.

Your on-ground support partner can assist you with information about the most appropriate PCT to plant. Refer to the definition of planting sites for Living Carbon projects in Appendix A: Terms and definitions.

Example Table A: Planting sites and properties/o	characteristics
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Planting site(s)	Area (ha)	Stems per ha	Target canopy (%)	Plant community type	Description
A	3	1250	80	Northern Lowland Subtropical Rainforest. PCT: 3021	Riparian rainforest plant species - adjoining a major river system.
В	2	1100	65	Mid North Lowland Flooded Gum - Palm Wet Forest. PCT: 3162	Wetland/floodplain plant species - low lying floodplain/wetland area.
С	5	1150	65	Northern Blackbutt- Turpentine Shrub Forest. PCT: 3248	Wet sclerophyll eucalypt forest plant species - upper bank well drained.
Total	10				

Figure 2: Example check list for Planting Zone 1

- ☑ The total carbon estimation area (area to be planted) for Living Carbon is 10 ha or more.
- ☑ Every individual planting site is 1 ha or more in size, no planting sites are less than 1 ha.
- ⊠ All planting sites/CEAs have a species composition containing a minimum of 8 trees and 6 shrubs being planted. The species composition of all sites combined is in Table H.
- ⊠ All planting sites have a planting density of 800 stems per ha or more, per the regional requirements.
- ☑ Tube stock to be purchased from local suppliers. To ensure local provenance, only tube stock/seedlings generated from seeds collected within 200 km radius will be planted.

3.3 Planting map

In section 3.3 of your planting plan, please provide a map that shows the following:

- The planting site(s) for which you are seeking funding from the Living Carbon grant. These sites should be detailed in your planting plan. Please label the site(s) how you will refer to them in your plan, for example, sites A, B and C. Your Living Carbon project's planting sites will likely match the CEA(s) for your registered carbon project.
- If your Living Carbon project is only part of the total CEA(s) of your registered carbon project (shown in the Landscape map), please show the difference in the planting map.
- Any fences that will be installed or repaired, and existing fences, that will be used to
 protect plantings. Use different colours or symbols to distinguish between fences that
 exist, will be installed or will be repaired.
- The places where you plan to have your photo monitoring points.

An example of the planting map is in Figure 3. You should also provide a brief description of the main features of the map.

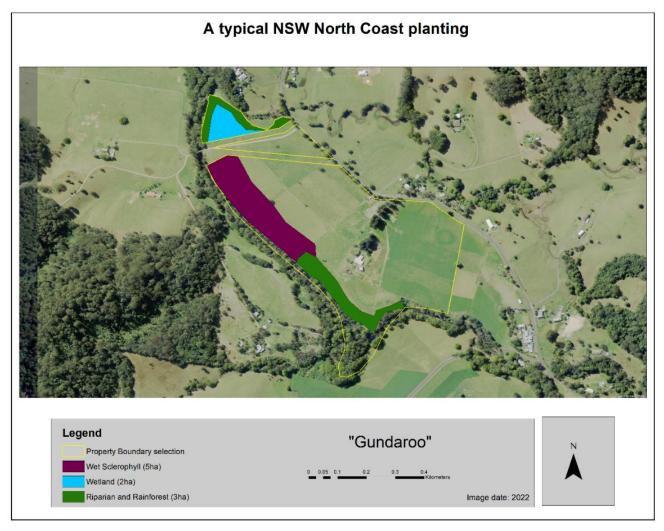


Figure 3: Example Planting maps showing a Landscape map and a more detailed map.

4 Project Activities

You need to consider what the specific needs of your project are or will be, throughout its different stages, to ensure the long-term survival and success of your plantings. This could include tailoring site preparation, using tree protection materials, installing and/or fixing fencing to protect plantings, and planning targeted maintenance and monitoring activities.

The needs and requirements of each project will differ based on location, soil, climate and the species being planted. Advice is provided in sections 4.1 to 4.54.5 below, along with the regional resources previously listed in section 3. Your on-ground support partner can also assist you to identify the needs of your project and complete the relevant details in your planting plan.

Note: When completing Tables B to F in section 4 of your plan you can combine different planting sites that use the same revegetation methods onto one line.

4.1 Revegetation method

You can revegetate the planting sites in your project by tube stock or long stem planting. Direct seeding is not an approved revegetation method for the North Coast due to vigorous groundcover weed competition that will occur on a site prepared for direct seeding.

Complete Table B in your planting plan with details about which revegetation method you will use for your planting site(s) and how many plants will be allocated to individual sites and/or revegetation methods. A worked example for Table B is provided below to help you understand how to fill in your table.

Example Table B: Revegetation method(s) of your Living Carbon project

Revegetation method	Planting site(s)	Number of stems	Description and reasons
Tubestock	A	12,000	Quality tubestock is locally available for local nurseries for this planting project. Tubestock plants or hiko cells will establish better than direct seeding due to significant weed pressure. Planting density – 1,200 stems/ha x 10.0 ha.
Hiko cells	B and C	4,000	Selection here governed by nursery availability.
Longstem tubestock	С	3,850	Long stem tube stock will have higher chance of success in the riparian zone as better access to soil moisture and easy to outcompete tall tropical pasture grasses.

4.2 Site preparation

When planning your site preparation, you must consider whether your proposed activities may harm Aboriginal objects. Following the process set out in the Due Diligence Code of Practice for Aboriginal Objects Protection in NSW can help you to comply with legal requirements to protect Aboriginal objects.

Preparing a site for tubestock may involve reducing biomass, ripping or digging holes/augering, weed control and pest control. Your approach should be discussed with your on-ground support partner.

Table 4.a below includes general information about revegetation projects and specific information relevant to projects in the North Coast region.

Table 4.a Details and regional information for preparing a site for planting

Site preparation activities	Information
Weed control	 All sites will be prepared by reducing groundcover (exotic species) biomass through slashing and herbicide application. For sites where soils are compacted: sites need to be ripped to 30 cm depth then, one month after, applied with herbicide spray of 50 cm width along rip lines. For sites with friable soils: sites need to be strip or spot sprayed one month prior to planting. Planting spades or augers will be used in the planting of tube stock. Weed control methods will maximise the use of vehicles, tools and equipment to achieve cost efficiencies. One month prior to planting, apply knockdown and residual herbicide on 1 m wide strips along the rip line/planting line. This will control weed competition after planting.
Soil preparation	 Soil preparation is required for planting tubestock and includes ripping, auguring or similar activities. Ripping is the preferred method for sites with compacted soils and for large scale plantings. Augering, planting spades or other hole-digging techniques are preferred on friable soils, smaller areas (< 5 -10 ha), and sites that are sensitive (prone to soil erosion) or are difficult for machinery to access.

Soil preparation Ripping may be appropriate for some sites. For tube stock planting, ripping should be done in the following manner: Prior to ripping, check that there are no utilities or services such as power lines, sewer pipes or telephone cables that could be disturbed. Rip tree lines while the ground is dry using a winged ripper for deep shattering of the soil a minimum of three months prior to planting. Rip to a minimum depth of 450 mm. Don't rip under the drip line of existing trees or vegetation edge Rip across the slope (contour) where possible, avoid steep or rocky areas. Cultivate soil after ripping if there are large clods. Herbicide application along rip lines prior to planting (as above - Weed Control). Livestock must be kept off sites that have been ripped for planting to avoid soil compaction and disturbance. Soil preparation Planting in rip lines using augers or tree spades. In some sites, ripping may not be preferable (such as soils prone to erosion). At these locations, planting can be established in herbicide treated planting lines by augering of holes or using tree spades. Tractor slashing of grass between rows may offer mulching material along spray / planting lines. Other protective measures such as tree guides around planted tube stock will offer some protection from impacts of frost, wind and herbivore grazing. Pest control Seek advice from your regional LLS on the control of pests such as rabbits, hares, feral deer and pigs six months prior to planting. Implementing control methods 3 - 6 months prior to planting may avoid the additional cost of tree guards and replanting.

Note: Grant funds can only be used to fund soil preparation (ripping, augering or similar activities) for site preparation. Other site preparation activities related to weed control, including removal of biomass and pest control, will need to be fully paid for by co-contribution funds.

No on-ground project works, including site preparation, should be undertaken prior to:

- registering your project with the Clean Energy Regulator
- successfully applying for the Living Carbon grant

Complete Table C in your planting plan to outline your planned site preparation activities. An Example Table C is provided below to help you understand how to fill in this table.

Example Table C: Site preparation activities of the project

Site preparation activity	Planting site(s)	Length (m) or area (ha)	Description and reasons
Weed control	A, B & C	10.0 ha	Biomass reduction by crash grazing to reduce biomass before ripping and herbicide application.
Soil preparation	A, B & C	10.0 ha	Ripping is the most cost-effective method for preparing the planting sites, totalling 25,000 lineal meters with rows at 4 m apart. Note: a herbicide application may be required before ripping dependant on grazing outcomes.
Weed control	A, B & C	10.0 ha	Apply Glyphosate or similar appropriate herbicide at 1 m wide strips along the rip lines one month before planting, to control weed regrowth competition after planting.

4.3 Fencing

If your project requires fencing, please read the information below and complete Table D in your planting plan, including the cost of materials and labour to install your project's fencing. Make sure to include any new or repaired fencing shown on your Planting map. Provide information about the type of fencing you plan to install or repair, where it will be installed or repaired around planting sites(s), and the reasonings. You can also include any additional fencing activities required for your project.

Points to note when planning fencing and choosing fencing materials:

- The type of fencing you choose to install must be fit for your intended purpose, whether that is excluding stock, pest animals or native fauna from the planting areas.
- Electric fencing is a useful option if you would like to remove fencing once the trees and shrubs in your planting are mature and grazing will not impact the trees, as permitted by the CER.
- Barbed wire fencing is not recommended, especially on the top wire, due to the potential impact on wildlife. Please discuss the use of barbed wire with your region's on-ground support partner.
- The cost of fencing is a combination of materials, labour costs for preparation and installation, and additional costs because of variations in terrain.

• Be aware, when planning the shape of your planting sites, that some shapes require a greater distance (perimeter) of fencing for the same area protected. The cost of fencing an irregular shaped planting block on difficult terrain may make your project difficult to justify due to the high overall cost per hectare.

Further information about the recommendations and specifications for fencing in North Coast are detailed in Table 4.b below.

Table 4.b: Fencing design elements and considerations

Fencing position	 Plantings must be protected from livestock, exotic (pest species) and native herbivores (kangaroos & wallabies). All fencing must have a minimum set-back of 3 m from existing or proposed standing native vegetation, All fencing should be set back 3 m from the edge of planting to allow vehicle access during planting and maintenance.
Fencing type	 All fencing must be stockproof and include a minimum of one gate for establishment and maintenance. The top strand of wire around plantings must not be barbed to reduce the chance of wildlife entanglement and harm.

Note: Please be aware that the Living Carbon grants have limits on the amount of grant funds that can be spent on fencing. Grant funds must not exceed 50% of the total cost of the fence and may only be used to pay towards fencing costs that are equivalent to what a standard stock fence would cost. If you want to install a fence that will cost more than a standard stock fence, you need to provide a quote for both types of fencing to clearly show that the grant funds requested are only up to 50% of the equivalent stock fence cost. For example, if a standard stock fence for your project would cost \$10,000 but you choose to build a higher specification fence costing \$13,000, you would still only receive a maximum of \$5,000 (50% of \$10,000) in grant funding for fencing.

Please discuss which fencing materials are most suited to the needs of your planting project with the on-ground support partners or a local expert, and then complete the information in Table D in your planting plan. Please write the costs for materials and costs for labour on different lines.

Example	Table D	Fencing	materials	and labour
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Materials or labour	Planting site(s)	Length (m)	Description and reason
Fencing Materials	A & B	1000	Fencing wire & posts for new stock fence along the eastern side of Site A & B. Cost based on \$5,000/km.
Fencing Materials	A & B	3	New gate added to existing fence between Site A and B to provide vehicle and stock access between the north and south paddocks (because the existing gate in that fence will now be within planting site B). Add one new gate for each of Site A & B. \$650 for 3 gates and materials.
Fencing Labour	A & B		Fencing labour and equipment by the landowner as in- kind. Est. 150 hours general fence (~10m/h) + 20 hours for stays = 170 h at@ \$50/h labour & equipment use.

4.4 Tree protection

If your project requires tree protection materials (such as tree guards, water crystals or native plant fertiliser), or labour, please provide details in Table E of your planting plan. Include information about the type and quantity of plant protection (for example tree guards), materials, and labour your project needs, the reasons for use, and which areas they will be used in. You are encouraged to discuss this with the on-ground support partner.

Points to note about plant protection and materials:

- Not all plants may require tree protection.
- The tree protection needs of sites planted by tubestock versus direct seeding will differ.
- Tree guards can be sourced in a variety of heights, sizes and materials including plastic, cardboard and metal. Consider what suits your site best. Biodegradable cardboard guards are recommended when near watercourses.
- Tree guards require stakes (bamboo, wood, metal) to hold them up in the ground. Please
 ensure you purchase enough stakes to install the guards. Usually, 1 3 stakes are needed
 per guard, depending on the type.
- Using planting materials, specifically a native slow-release fertiliser and water crystals, is useful but may not be realistic for larger plantings.
- Tree guards must be removed at the appropriate time.

Further information and regional specifications for North Coast are in Table 4.c.

Table 4.c Regional information for planning planting activities and tree protection materials

Timing of planting	 Planting to occur a minimum of 2–3 weeks after weed control (i.e. herbicide treated rip lines or non-tilled spray lines). Plantings are best undertaken in the wetter months on the North Coast between December and May (this is site and seasonal dependant). Planting should occur only when there is satisfactory soil moisture. Water crystals have some application on drier and sandy soils (see below).
Tree protection materials	 Recommend cardboard guards that are a minimum 50 cm in height or reusable plastic mesh tree guards or sleeves that are minimum 500 mm high and the required stakes for the guard design. Seek both biodegradable and cost-effective options. A wetting agent or water crystals is recommended if the site is prone to drying out. Water crystals need to be used carefully as they can hinder and even kill trees through drawing out all of the moisture into the crystal. Depending on type of herbivores that may impact the site, tall trees guards (> 0.8 m) may be required.
Weed matts/mulch	Weed matts and mulches are essential for project success. Geotextile or coir weed mat that is minimum 250 mm radius and/or mulch to minimum 100 mm thick is recommended.

Note: Grant funds can be used for up to 100% of the cost of tree planting protection, materials and labour. Equipment, such as post hole diggers, mallets (for putting in stakes) and watering equipment, are ineligible grant expenditure. You will need to fund or seek third party funding for these items if you require them for your project.

Please discuss which tree protection and materials are most suited to the needs of your planting project with the on-ground support partners or a local expert and complete Table E in your planting plan. A worked example of Table E is provided below to help you understand how to fill in this table.

Example Table E: Tree protection materials and labour

Tree protection materials/labour	Planting site(s)	Description and reasons (include quantity)
Tree protection materials	A & B	5,000 tree guards (one per plant), 1L cardboard - to protect from rabbits and wind.
Tree protection materials	A & B	10,000 stakes (2 per guard), 600 mm bamboo – to support tree guards.
Planting – Labour (incl. installation of tree guards, etc)	A (all) & B (4 ha only)	Planting and installing tree guards, 100 hours contracted labour.
Planting – Labour (incl. installation of tree guards, etc)	B (1ha only)	Planting and installing tree guards, 50 hours volunteer labour (Landcare event, 20 people x 2.5 h each).

4.5 Monitoring and maintenance

Regular activities involved in monitoring and maintaining revegetation projects include:

- follow-up watering, if required, particularly in the first 12–18 months
- checking survival rate of plantings, over time and following severe events, and undertake replacement if losses are above 10% or high losses occur in a specific area of the planting
- watering, if required, particularly in the first 12–18 months
- checking survival rate of plantings.
- undertake replacement if losses are above 10% or high losses occur in a specific area of the planting
- minimising the impact and competition from weeds
- checking whether grazing stock or feral pests are damaging the plantings
- assessing damage after severe weather events and fixing any damaged tree protection materials or fencing
- performing any regional or project specific activities that may be required (see Table 4d below).

The main purpose of maintenance is to manage any threats and constraints that may impact the establishment of your plantings for example stock or pest animals eating plantings, severe weed infestations, weed seed that persist in the seedbank, severe flooding or exposed or steep sloping sites. Consider these when planning your project and maintenance activities.

Table 4.d: Regional recommendations and information for monitoring and maintenance

Monitoring	Regional recommendations
Weed control	Monitor for new and emerging weeds to the site, especially woody weeds that will impact forest establishment and reduce biodiversity values. Refer to DPI WeedWise for identification and control methods.
	Slashing along rows will be maintained in the short to medium term until canopy cover is established.
Restricted grazing of sites	After planting, livestock grazing must be excluded from the project area for the initial 4–5 years or when trees are fully established.
	Livestock can be introduced under close monitoring, for weed control under a crash or periodic grazing approach.
Management of bushfire risk	Implement bushfire risk management plan, required under the CER when registering your project.

Note: Grant funds cannot be spent on monitoring and maintenance. These activities will need to be fully paid for by your co-contribution to the grants.

Please discuss which monitoring and maintenance practices are most suited to the needs of your planting project with the on-ground support partners or a local expert and complete the Table F in your planting plan. A worked example of Table F is provided below to help you understand how to fill in this table.

Example Table F: Maintenance and monitoring of planting project

Maintenance and monitoring	Planting site(s)	Description and reasons
Initial monitoring	A, B & C	Monitor survival rate as per schedule and if likely to drop below 80% then order more plants and replace dead ones.
Initial monitoring	A, B & C	Monitor soil moisture and arrange watering if cost-benefit assessment indicates it is worthwhile.
Initial maintenance	A, B & C	Regularly monitor weeds and organise any control if required to reduce competition.
Initial maintenance	A, B & C	After extreme events (wind, rain, hail, fire, flood) check tree health, guards etc and organise repair/replace if needed.
Initial monitoring	A, B & C	Exclude livestock for at least 5 years and until plants won't be damaged; monitor for damage from other animals and organise maintenance if needed.

5 Target co-benefits

Living Carbon projects aim to demonstrate co-benefits that can be gained from revegetation carbon projects. Applicants must plan their project to deliver co-benefits to a minimum of one flora species, or fauna species or threatened ecological community, as outlined in section 6.3 of the Living Carbon grant guidelines.

We recommend you complete the tables for this section in the planting plan workbook and then copy and paste them into your planting plan. See section 1.1 for instructions.

5.1 Target co-benefits

List the targeted iconic and/or threatened species or Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) that will benefit from your planting project in Table G of your planting plan. Include information about why you are choosing those species and whether they are threatened or not. For example, revegetation of habitat may have been identified in a recovery strategy to help recover a threatened species under the NSW Saving our Species program.

A worked example of Table G is provided below to help you understand how to fill in this table. See Appendix B: Regional Species Selection Tables for a list of species and/or threatened ecological communities of significant focus in the North Coast that projects are encouraged target and deliver biodiversity co-benefits for.

Example Table G: Targeted biodiversity co-benefits your project aims to achieve and justification

Туре	Common name	Scientific name	Status	Justification
Fauna	Giant Barred Frog	Mixophyes iteratus	Vulnerable/ vulnerable	Riparian habitat and enhancement planting along major river system.
Fauna	Wompoo Fruit-Dove	Ptilinopus magnificus	Vulnerable/ not listed	Fruiting rainforest tree a key resource for this species.
Fauna	Koala	Phascolarctos cinereus	Endangered/ endangered	Food trees planted of several key species and numerous local records.
Fauna	South-eastern Glossy Black- Cockatoo	Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	Vulnerable/ vulnerable	Planting of Casuarina & Allocasuarina species.

Flora	Rusty Plum,	Niemeyera whitei	Vulnerable/	Planting of this species in
	Plum		not listed	partnership with NSW Save
	Boxwood			our Species (SoS) program.

^{*}NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act

5.2 Biodiversity Map

In section 5.2 of your planting plan, please provide a map showing:

- current or historical records (occurrences) of any target fauna and/or flora species
- current or historical maps of any threatened ecological community you aim to restore

You can use records from various sources, including your own observations, as long as they are reliable. Some useful and free sources of biodiversity records include: <u>BioNet</u>, <u>Atlas of Living Australia</u> and <u>Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data in NSW (SEED</u>). Previous ecological reports on the property or nearby could also be useful.

Local vegetation mapping may be available for identifying threatened ecological communities (TEC) or other target vegetation types. Some council websites also have interactive maps of the vegetation for their area. Otherwise, the NSW State Vegetation Type Map provides a reasonable guide. Figure 4 and Figure 5 provide examples of a plant community map and a biodiversity map respectively.

What is the purpose of this map?

As part of your Living Carbon project, you must choose at least one iconic native species, threatened species or threatened ecological community (TEC) that you can demonstrate over time has benefitted from your planting project. The aim of the biodiversity map is to show that those species or TECs are currently found locally or have occurred there historically. Therefore, you can be confident that they will likely benefit from your project. You do not have to map all species that will benefit, just the ones you will directly focus on and promote to add value to your carbon credits.

[^]Commonwealth Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act

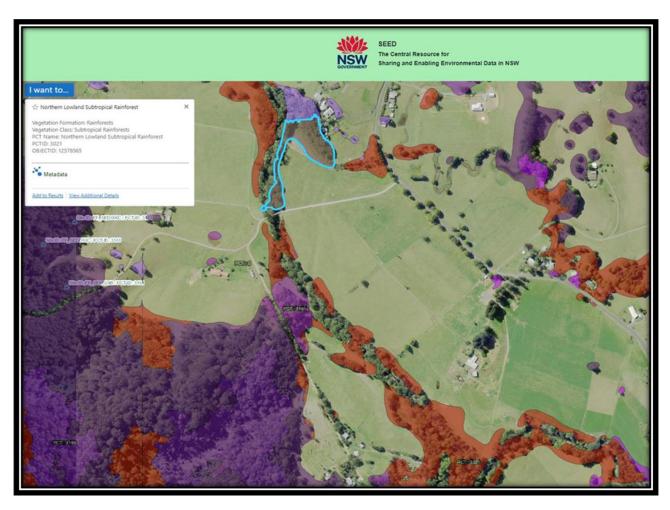


Figure 4: Plant Community Type Mapping sourced from SEED database (see link in resources section)

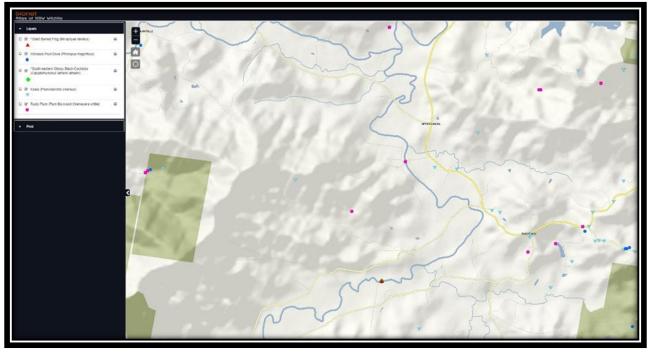


Figure 5: NSW Bionet image: Mapped species sighting records from Table G

5.3 Species diversity and abundance to be planted

Complete Table H in your planting plan, listing the tree and shrub species you intend to plant, their type (shrub or tree) and how many of each species you will be planting. If a flora species is being planted to directly benefit a target fauna species, for example koala food tree species, or as part of a TEC that is being restored, please specify that in the far-right column of the table (Target species or community benefited).

A worked example of Table H is provided below to help you understand how to fill in this table. Refer to section Choosing your species and Regional Species Selection Tables in Appendix B for information about developing a list of species that are suitable to plant for different vegetation types.

Example Table H: Species list, diversity, and abundance of species planned to be planted

#	Flora species (scientific name)	Type (T, S*)	Quantity to be planted	Target species or community benefited^	
1	Acacia melanoxylon	Т	500	Glossy Black Cockatoo	
2	Allocasuarina torulosa	S	750	Glossy Black Cockatoo & Koala	
3	Elaeocarpus angustifolia	Т	250	Lowland rainforest EEC	
4	Callistemon salignus	S	500		
5	Callistemon viminalis	S	500		
6	Casuarina glauca	Т	500	Glossy Black Cockatoo	
7	Casuarina cunninghamii	Т	500	Glossy Black Cockatoo	
8	Corymbia intermedia	Т	500	Nectivorous bird attractant	
9	Eucalyptus acmenoides	Т	500	Koala	
10	Eucalyptus grandis	Т	500	Lowland rainforest EEC	
11	Eucalyptus microcorys	Т	750	Koala	
12	Eucalyptus saligna	Т	750	Koala	
13	Lophostemon confertus	Т	500	Lowland rainforest EEC	
14	Lophostemon suaveolens	Т	500		
15	Melaleuca quinquenervia	Т	500		
16	Melaleuca styphelioides	S	500		
17	Commersonia bartramia	S	250	Lowland rainforest EEC	
18	Tristaniopsis laurina	S	500	Lowland rainforest EEC	
19	Syzygium australe	S	500	Lowland rainforest EEC & Wompoo Fruit Dove	
20	Ficus coronata	S	250	As above	
*Тур	*Type: T for Tree, S for shrub or small tree				

[^] Only complete if there is a direct co-benefit to a targeted species or community

Under the EPP method you must plant species that are indicative of the original or predicted Plant Community Type(s) (PCT) for the area being revegetated. This also ensures the best outcomes for habitat restoration.

If you complete Table H in the workbook, (recommended), Table I will automatically update with the total figures and the total number of species providing a target co-benefit. You can then copy the tables from the workbook and paste them into your planting plan.

If you manually complete Table H in your plan, you will also need complete Table I manually. To do this, count the number of tree species and the total quantity of trees to be planted, and add these numbers to Table I. Do the same for shrub species. You can then review the number of each plant type (noting the requirements for species diversity for your region in Table 3.b) and calculate the percentage of trees vs shrubs.

A worked example of Table I is provided below to help you understand how to fill in this table.

Example Table I: Summary of the planting project's species diversity, abundance and co-benefits

Plant type	Total type	Quantity to be planted	% of total quantity
Trees	12	7,000	60%
Shrubs	8	5,000	40%
Total	20	12,000	100%
Providing a direct biodiversity co-benefit	15	9,000	75%

6 Environmental accounting

6.1 Designing your Environmental Account

You must provide information about the design of the Environmental Account which you will register if your Living Carbon grant application is successful. The on-ground support partner can assist you with determining the most suitable method.

Complete the design of your Environmental Account by following the steps outlined for <u>Step 1 – Design</u> on Accounting for Nature's website then complete 6. 1 in your planting plan. Most of the information you need to design your Environmental Account with Accounting for Nature (AfN) can be found in other sections of your planting plan.

Table 6.a below directs you to where you might find information in your planting plan to help you design your Environmental Account.

Table 6.a: Information needed to design an Environmental Account and where to find it in the planting plan

Design element	Existing location of information provided
Choose an approved AfN method(s)	Select from options in Table 6.b, below.
Environmental Account boundary	This is typically your entire property, however it can be just your Living Carbon project planting area or your entire carbon project registered with the CER. Mapped in the Landscape Map in section 2.3 of your planting plan.
Environmental Asset Account boundary(s)	Each planting site could define an asset boundary in your AfN account, however refer to the instructions for the method(s) you choose. Mapped in the Planting Map in section 3.3.
Environmental Assets and sub-assets	Your project's target co-benefits are listed in Table G of your plan and could be the target asset(s) for your AfN account.
Reference site for vegetation and fauna	Should be considered now but can be determined if your grant application is successful. Optional detail in the Landscape map.
Monitoring plan	Included in the schedules in section 7 and can be finalised if your grant application is successful.
Engage an expert	If needed, refer to the AfN method instructions.

Choosing a method

You must choose a minimum of one Accounting for Nature (AfN) method and accuracy level to apply to your project. Select from the list in Table 6b which narrows all the AfN methods down to seven that will suit Living Carbon projects and will not require extensive expertise. The onground support partner can assist you with determining the most suitable method.

The AfN methods are developed at a particular 'accuracy level' which reflects the robustness of a method's approach to measuring the condition of the Environmental Asset. Certain methods offer only one accuracy level, while others offer a choice of 2 or 3 accuracy levels. The higher the accuracy level, the greater the survey effort and/or technical expertise expected. You are responsible for choosing a method and accuracy level that is suitable to your project and aims. Find the instructions for each method on AfN's Method Catalogue (see also Appendix C and the note below).

Table 6.b: Eligible methods for Living Carbon

	Method	80%	90%	95%
	F-01 Accounting for Natural Mammal Condition Method			
Fauna	F-02: A native woodland bird assessment methodology for diverse regenerating farmlands			
	F-04 Koala Population and Habitat Condition Method			
	NV-03: Green Collar Native Vegetation Condition Monitoring Method			
Vegetation	NV-06: AfN and Landcare Native Vegetation			
	NV-07 Bush Heritage Australia – Native Veg <u>Assessment</u>			
	NV-13 NSW BCT Native Veg Monitoring			

NOTE for applicants considering F-02 and NV-07

Methods NV-07 or F-02 require approval from the method author and negotiation of a licencing fee. NSW DCCEEW have negotiated approvals and licence fees for Living Carbon projects. If you are interested in using one of these methods please talk to your on-ground support partner or email the Net Zero Land team requesting further information (netzero.land@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Chosen Environmental Assets ("Assets"), method(s) and accuracy level

In section 6.1 of your planting plan, provide information for each Asset Account you are planning to register as part of your project. An example of how to fill out this section is shown in J below.

Example Table J: Example environmental asset account information

Environmental Asset Account 1:

Asset class: Vegetation

Environmental Asset: All vegetation in planted areas

Sub-Asset(s): N/A

Method and Accuracy: NV-06: AfN and Landcare Native Vegetation 80%

Applicable planting areas: All

Environmental Asset Account 2:

Asset class: Fauna

Environmental Asset: Koala habitat

Sub-Asset(s): N/A

Method and Accuracy: F-04 Koala Population and Habitat Method (80-9%)

Applicable planting areas: All

6.2 Specific method requirements

Specific information about the requirements of individual methods can be found on <u>AfN's</u> <u>website</u> and in the instructions document for each method (specifically the "Overview of Process" section). It is recommended that you read these instructions before deciding which method(s) you will use.

There is a section in the planting plan for you to record specific notes for your reference about the requirements for the method(s) you have chosen.

7 Project Delivery

This section provides timelines and activity schedules that you can follow when implementing your project both short and long-term. This will allow you to organise and prioritise tasks you need to achieve to meet project outcomes on time.

Revegetation projects require planning, site preparation, planting and long-term maintenance. All Environmental Accounts registered with Accounting for Nature (AfN) require the collection of data and site monitoring at regular intervals. Your revegetation project and Environmental Account will continue beyond the life of the grant project. This section focuses on 3 timelines:

- 1. Activity schedule specifically for Living Carbon grant (18 months).
- 2. Activity schedule for 1 to 5 years, including overlap with your Living Carbon grant.
- 3. Long-term project and Environmental Account maintenance, 6 to 25 years.

The information in sections 4 and 7.1 about project activities and their timing should be reflected in all 3 timelines.

The planting plan workbook contains outlines of all 3 schedules, for you to use as a starting point. You do not have to use these outlines. You can develop your activity schedules in your preferred format. Examples are also shown below.

7.1 Timing considerations

Understanding the optimal time to plant, planting thresholds and unexpected events that may impact your project, is essential to planning. Copy the information in Table 7a below into Table J of your planting plan. You may add your own information if you want to.

Table 7.a: Environmental thresholds for revegetation

Threshold	Description	
Most appropriate season for revegetation	Late Spring – early Summer (September – December) dependant on seasonal conditions. Site prepared for planting and plant stock on hand in the event of early good rains. Earlier planting (Spring) is recommended fo sites prone to heavy frost.	
Preferred soil moisture levels	High to medium	
Unexpected events that may change revegetation schedule	 Natural disasters – flood or fire Drought conditions, lack of onsite water Unseasonal hot dry weather – December / January Increased presence of pest animals 	

	Labour and plant stock availability
Existing topsoil	A distinct soil A horizon (top layer) that is preferably a friable loamy soil with moderate level of organic matter. Soils should lack parent material – specifically heavy clay or rock.
Existing seed bank composition	Manage the threat of reinfestation of problem woody weeds or groundcovers if the seedbank contains high levels of weed seed.

7.2 Project schedule for 18 months of the Living Carbon grant

This is a month-by-month activity schedule that you can follow when implementing your Living Carbon project. It will help you to prioritise your time, hire or purchase materials on time, and plan for upcoming actions. We have provided an outline of an 18-month timeline in the workbook in worksheet 7_TimeOto18mnths, and an example in Example Table K below.

The outline separates tasks by relevance into 3 categories: revegetation tasks, carbon and environmental accounting, and Living Carbon grant administration. It includes:

- Activities and outcomes that must be completed as part of your Living Carbon project and when to complete them. You should include these in your 18-month schedule.
- A row for each type of activity you may do, for example site preparation or fencing. Replace these with the actual tasks you will complete and when you will complete them. For example, the one row for site preparation might be replaced with 3 rows: crash graze planting sites to reduce biomass (3-6 months before planting), ground preparation (1-3 months before), and weed control (one month before).

You may find Appendix B: Brief activities schedule for revegetation in the North Coast useful when creating your 18-month schedule. Remember under the EPP method, you must complete the planting for your ACCU Scheme registered project within 18 months of the CER approving your carbon project.

Note: You must plan to complete the planting for your Living Carbon project within 12 months of your project's start date so that you can include a 6-month stem survival rate report with your final progress report. If your project's circumstances change, you will be able to apply for an extension to complete your planting.

7.3 Project schedule for 1 to 5 years

The first 5 years of a carbon revegetation project are the most important to its long-term success. Project activities by quarter from planting onwards for 1 to 5 years should be added in Table L, understanding that a detailed plan for the first 18 months including pre-planting activities is in Table K. An example schedule is shown below in Example Table L.

7.4 Project schedule for 6 to 25 years

The maintenance workload of revegetation projects significantly reduces after about 5 years. You will need to complete regular actions to maintain your active carbon project and environmental account for at least 25 years. Project activities from 6 to 25 years should be added in Table M for each year. An example schedule is shown below in Example Table M.

Example Table K: Project schedule for 18 months

Project month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Calendar month:	Α	S	0	Ν	D	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	J
Revegetation tasks																		
Order materials, planting stock from nurseries; engage contractors	Х																	
Site preparation - herbicide application; rip along planting rows		Х	Х															
Site preparation - fencing			Х	Х	Х	Х												
Site preparation - establish watering systems						X												
Planting - mulching							X	Χ	X									
Planting - contractor planting, weed matting & tree guards							X	Χ	Χ									
Follow up watering if required							X	X	X	Χ	Х	Χ	X					
Monitoring and replacement of failed plant													X	X	Х	X	X	X
Maintenance - post planting weed and pest control													X	X	Χ	X	X	Χ
Maintenance - follow up watering if required													Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ
Carbon and Environmental Accounting																		
Annual submission to ACCU Scheme and ACCUs issued																	Х	
Register Environmental Account (EA) with AfN (Step 2 AfN)		X											X					
Build Environmental Account (Step 3 AfN)		Х																
Certify EA (Step 4 AfN) (includes audit)					Х													
Biodiversity survey / ecological assessment monitoring		В				Х				X				Х		Х		
EA annual certification compliance report and registration																Х		
Living Carbon grant admin																		
Set up monitoring points, budgeting and grant tracking	Х	Х																
Complete project case study																		
Living Carbon surveys		1														2		
Submit grant progress reports		1				2						3						4
Monitor and report on stem survival rate 3–6 months after planting													Х	х	Х	х	Х	Х

Example Table L: Project schedule 1-5 years

Year	2025			20	26			2027				2028				2029				
Quarter	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Revegetation and Monitoring Activities																				
Planting			x	х																
Monitor survival rate and replace where needed			x	х		x		х		х		х				х				х
Monitor soil moisture and water if needed			х	х		х		х		х		х				х				х
Maintenance - post planting weed and pest control	х		х		х		х													
Carbon and Environmental Accounting (EA) admin																				
CER reporting, ACCUs issued (as often as 6 months to 5 years)				х				х				х				x				
Annual EA certification compliance report and registration		х				х				х				х				х		
Maintain EA every 5 years or less (data collection, audit, certify)																	X	x		x

Note: Assess impacts from natural hazard events (e.g. bushfires, floods) when needed, report, and take appropriate actions.

Example Table M: Project schedule for 6 to 25 years

Year 20xx	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Revegetation Activities (optional)																				
Planting site management ie ecological thinning																				
Habitat enhancement activities ie install nest boxes																				
Weed management ie camphor, privet, lantana																				
Maintain fire breaks																				
Mandatory reporting																				
CER reporting, ACCUs issued (chosen every 5 years)																				
EA certification compliance report registration																				
Maintain EA (data colllection, audit, certify)																				
Share your experiences (landholder optional)																				
Landcare/ community events																				
Primary producer demonstration																				
Seed supply and production areas																				

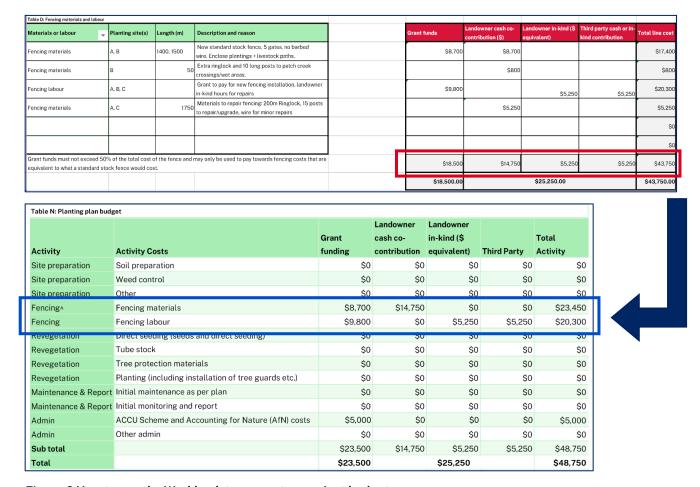
Note: Assess impacts from natural hazard events (e.g. bushfires, floods) when needed, report, and take appropriate actions.

8 Budget and contractors

8.1 Budget

Complete your budget in Table N of the planting plan. An Example Table N is shown below.

The planting plan workbook has options to assist with budgeting. If you want to use it, you can list your project activities in worksheet 4_ProjectActivities in the workbook. If you then fill in the cost of each activity, and which sources of funding will pay for it, the values will automatically add up in worksheet 8_Budget. You can then copy Table N from your workbook into your planting plan. Figure 6 below shows how this works.



 $\label{lem:figure 6} \textbf{How to use the Workbook to generate a project budget.}$

In the top table, left hand side, 4 fencing activities have been listed. On the right-hand side, the cost of each activity has been entered by funding source. The total cost by funding source is calculated at the bottom (highlighted in the red box). The cost for the fencing activities, split into materials and labour, is now automatically calculated in worksheet 8_Budget sheet (highlighted in the blue box).

Example Table N: Planting plan budget

Activity	Activity Costs	Grant funding	Landowner cash co- contribution (\$)	Landowner in-kind (\$ equivalent)	Third Party	Total Activity
Site preparation	Soil preparation	\$11,000.00				\$11,000.00
Site preparation	Weed control		\$2,500.00			\$2,500.00
Site preparation	Other					\$0.00
Fencing [^]	Fencing materials	\$8,500.00				\$8,500.00
Fencing [^]	Fencing labour			\$8,500.00		\$8,500.00
Revegetation	Tube stock	\$48,000.00				\$48,000.00
Revegetation	Tree protection materials	\$36,000.00				\$36,000.00
Revegetation	Planting labour (e.g. installation of tree guards etc.)	\$25,000.00			\$2,000.00	\$27,000.00
Maintenance &	Initial maintenance as per plan			\$13,000.00		\$13,000.00
Report	Initial monitoring and report			\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00
Admin	ACCU Scheme and Accounting for Nature costs	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$10,000.00
Admin	Other admin			\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Sub total		\$133,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$167,500.00
Total		\$133,500.00		\$34,000.00		\$167,500.00

Note: You are required to provide two quotes for each activity cost in your planting plan budget for which you seek grant funding of more than \$5,000. If you are unable to provide 2 quotes, you must provide a justification. DCCEEW may accept the justification at its full discretion.

Please check all calculations to confirm that the values in your budget are correct.

8.2 Nominating contractors

Contractors must be qualified, licensed, insured and experienced to take on the works you are contracting them for. You are required to upload and attach contractor quotes in SmartyGrants when completing your grant application. You can keep information about your chosen contractors in the workbook for your own reference in sheet 0_Contractors.

9 Landholder commitment and on-ground support partner endorsement

Landowner commitment

At the end of the planting plan in section 9 of the planting plan, there is a commitment statement that must be signed by the legal owner of the property or their appointed representative. The person signing on behalf of the property owner should understand the plan to confirm that it is accurate, including all the values given for planting areas, materials and budgets. They should also believe that the plan is achievable and will deliver on the aims of the Living Carbon grant program, specifically a significant amount of carbon sequestration and improvements in biodiversity. Also, assuming the project is supported by the Living Carbon grants, they can provide the additional resources needed to implement the plan.

On-ground support partner endorsement

The planting plan must be developed with guidance from the on-ground support partner, North Coast Local Land Services. North Coast LLS has dedicated staff to the Living Carbon project. A representative of this team must have been to the property and be familiar with the project area and surrounding landscape. North Coast LLS Living Carbon staff must confirm and agree that the contents of the plan are accurate, that the proposed activities and budget is realistic, based on their knowledge of the project area and experience with similar projects. They will also review the expected outcomes from the project and assess the likelihood of meeting the objectives of the Living Carbon grants, such as improving the habitat for a specific threatened species that can be measured and proven.

For further information please contact:

John Nagle and Nicolai Cooper North Coast Local Land Services 1300 795 299 admin.northcoast@lls.nsw.gov.au

Note: If the on-ground partner does not agree with any element of the plan they are not obligated to sign it and you will not be able to apply for a Living Carbon grant. It is strongly recommended that you talk with your on-ground support partner about your proposed project early in the development of the plan, to help ensure that their representative will agree to endorse the final plan.

10 Appendix

Appendix A: Terms and definitions

The following terms are used throughout the planting plan guide and planting plan.

Term	Definition				
Accounting for Nature Ltd (AfN)	An independent not-for-profit organisation that administers the Accounting for Nature® Framework ('the Framework'). The Framework provides a system for measuring, verifying, certifying, and publicly reporting Environmental Condition Accounts ('Environmental Accounts').				
Accredited AfN method	Refers to any method listed on AfN's website Method Catalogue. Accredited Methods provide detailed instructions on how to measure the Condition of a specific Environmental Asset, at a particular Accuracy Level, at a particular Scale, and to support a specific Purpose and/or Claim.				
ACCU	Australian Carbon Credit Unit				
ACCU Scheme	ACCU Scheme (formerly known as the Emissions Reduction Fund) is a voluntary scheme that provides incentives for organisations and individuals to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce or remove carbon emissions from the atmosphere. It is administered by the Clean Energy Regulator (CER).				
Applicant	An entity referred to in these guidelines that applies for a Living Carbon grant.				
Application	Submission of an application form and other required documents for a Living Carbon grant.				
Asset Account	An AfN Environmental Asset account (Asset Account) individually reflects the condition of one Environmental Asset as specified by a single Accredited method.				

Carbon project	Means verified carbon sequestration activities, registered with the ACCU Scheme, which reduce, avoid, or remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere and contribute to the mitigation of climate change. Carbon projects eligible for funding under Living Carbon must be registered under the Environmental Planting Pilot method, however an alternative equivalent method may also be accepted if the EPP method becomes unavailable.
Clean Energy Regulator (CER)	Administer schemes legislated by the Australian Government for measuring, managing, reducing or offsetting Australia's carbon emissions. This includes the ACCU Scheme.
Carbon estimation area (CEA)	The area(s) within a carbon project registered under the ACCU Scheme where the carbon management activity (such as storing carbon in trees in an environmental planting project) takes place. The Total carbon estimation area is the area of all CEAs combined.
Co-benefits	The additional benefits associated with carbon projects. This may include environmental benefits, such as enhanced biodiversity, economic gains from increased productivity, increased community resilience, and Aboriginal cultural co-benefits.
Co-funding	Financial support of a successful project provided by the Department and a private sector entity or entities.
Corporations Act	Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth)
DCCEEW	The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Environmental Account	As in an Environmental Account registered with Accounting for Nature. An Environmental Account is a single registered environmental accounting project that reports on the condition of one or more Environmental Assets within a defined boundary (Environmental Account boundary). Environmental Accounts are comprised of one or more individual Environmental Asset Accounts (contained within an Asset Account Boundary). Under the Framework an Environmental Account includes all Environmental Account data and the Information Statement.

Environmental Asset "Asset"	Any biophysical features in nature that can be measured. Environmental Assets can be specific, such as an individual fauna species, or broad such as a group of fauna species or an ecosystem. Environmental assets generally fall into one of the following Asset Classes: fauna, vegetation, soil, water, and ecosystems.
Guidelines	Approved framework for the operation and administration of Living Carbon funding. Note: The grant guidelines will be amended and updated by NSW DCCEEW as needed to be current and accurate.
Ineligible expenditure	Expenditure of the kind defined as ineligible in section 2.8.2 Funding inclusions and exclusions of the Living Carbon grant guidelines.
Living Carbon	Means the grant program being developed by DCCEEW to support landholders to implement and demonstrate carbon projects with biodiversity benefits.
Minister	The Minister with responsibility for Living Carbon funding, which at the time of publishing for these guidelines is the NSW Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage.
NRM Region	Natural Resource Management region as outlined on <u>NRM Regions</u> <u>Map – NRM Regions Australia</u> . Landholders in NSW can find what NRM region they part of here: <u>Look up your Local Land Services</u> <u>region - Local Land Services (nsw.gov.au)</u> .
NSW	The State of New South Wales
On-ground support partner	DCCEEW is working with two key partners: NSW Local Land Services (North Coast and Riverina regions), and the NSW Koala Strategy (Mid Coast region). These partners will play a key role in assisting applicants in eligible regions with their pre-application requirements and will be involved during project implementation to ensure planting work is done in-line with endorsed planting plans.
Planting site or individual planting site	A defined area where planting is occurring as part of a project. A project may comprise of one or more individual planting sites. Note, there may be conditions for what the minimum area of a planting

	site may be in some regions. Each planting area should be assigned a unique number, letter or name, to make it easy to refer to.
Project	A project described in an application for funding under Living Carbon. A project may be comprised of one or more individual planting sites.
Smarty Grants	The Department's online grant administration system provided by Our Community Pty Ltd
Threatened Ecological Community (TEC)	An ecological community becomes listed as threatened when it becomes at risk of extinction. An ecological community may be listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered depending on the level of threat and risk of its collapse. A community can be listed in NSW (under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016) or nationally (under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999).
Threatened species	A native species listed as threatened with extinction locally or regionally (under a Regional Natural Resources Management Plan), state-wide (under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016), nationally (under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) or internationally (under the IUCN). This includes threatened populations of species.

Appendix B: Regional resources and information

This section contains the resources listed below (click on the text to go the information):

- Map of North Coast
- Choosing your project site in the North Coast
- Choosing your species information
- Regional Species Selection Tables community:
 - Wet Sclerophyll Forest and Dry Sclerophyll Forest sites
 - Rainforest sites
 - Wetlands (may include riparian and floodplain) sites
- Brief activities schedule for revegetation in the North Coast

Map of North Coast



Figure 7: North Coast

Choosing your project site in the North Coast

The unique characteristics of your property, location and plantings sites should be considered when planning your project. To do this, consider the tips below and seek advice from the onground support partner for your region:

- The cost of fencing an irregular shaped planting block on difficult terrain may make your project difficult to justify due to the high overall cost per hectare.
- The most effective shape has a larger centre to edge ratio, with circular or square blocks
 presenting the most effective shape. Be aware, when planning the shape of your planting
 sites, that some shapes require a greater distance (perimeter) of fencing for the same area
 protected.

Site must be easily accessible to effectively access the site with plant and equipment needed to plant and maintain the site.

When designing your planting project and sites, preference should be given to sites that:

- Provide the lowest area to edge ratio configuration. You want to avoid shapes that require a greater distance (perimeter) of fencing for the same area protected and instead, choose shapes that have a smaller perimeter (edge) for the same area. This will reduce how much fencing is needed. The cost of fencing an irregular shaped planting block on difficult terrain may make your project difficult to justify due to the high overall cost per hectare. A low edge to area ratio is also better for wildlife and reduces access points for threats like weeds. Lower area to edge ratio can reduce fencing costs as well.
- Connect with existing vegetation or important habitat may be favoured over planting of isolated patches or linear/narrow windbreaks.
- Are less likely to be impacted by threats such as flooding and weed incursions.

Threats/constraints including severe weed infestations, weed seed that persist in the seedbank, severe flooding or exposed or steep sloping sites will need thorough consideration. Some sites may not be suitable for the program due to very high cost of planting establishment and maintenance.

Choosing your species

Under the EPP method you must plant species that are indicative of the original or predicted Plant Community Type(s) (PCT) for the area being revegetated. This also ensures the best outcomes for habitat restoration.

- Species for planting are usually determined through Plant Community Type (PCT) mapping and site assessment of existing, or predicting the pre-cleared, vegetation.
- The use of early successional (or pioneer) species will depend on the site conditions. More exposed/poor soil sites will require planting of these hardy species than sites that offer more favourable conditions. (5.3)

- Plant stock propagated from seed available from the North Coast Regional Seed Bank (Coffs Harbour) or other locally sourced seed supplies should be favoured for plantings.
- The selected species will be those that are important in reconstructing the vegetation formation at the site. The key broad formations are Wet Sclerophyll Forest, Dry Sclerophyll Forest, Rainforest and Wetland.
- Spacing (densities) for Dry Sclerophyll Forest, Wet Sclerophyll Forest and Wetland plantings is dependent on the site conditions and vegetation formation.
- Riparian plantings should use a combination of species from the vegetation formations according to position in the landscape.
- Rainforest plantings should be planted with 2 m 2.5 m between each row and plants spaced 2.5 m 3 m along the row. dependant on landholder in-kind contributions to meet thresholds from grant funds.

The Regional Species Selection Tables (refer to Appendix B: Regional resources and information) will assist in determining suitable species for each vegetation formation.

It is recommended that if a planting site is near or within a riparian zone, considerations of waterfront land legislation be made. That is use of machinery on riparian land may need a controlled activity licence.

Regional Species Selection Tables

Wet Sclerophyll Forest and Dry Sclerophyll Forest sites

Table B1: Species list for Wet Sclerophyll Forest and Dry Sclerophyll Forest sites

Species suitable for planting at Wet Sclerophyll Forest and Dry Sclerophyll Forest sites. All species grow to above 2 m tall.

Wet Sclerophyll Forest and Dry Sclerophyll Forest sites					
Species name	Common name	Wet	Dry		
		Sclerophyll	Sclerophyll		
Acacia concurrens	Black Wattle	X	X		
Acacia disparrima subsp. disparrima	Brush Ironbark Wattle		X		
Acacia fimbriata	Fringed wattle	X			
Acacia floribunda	White Sally Wattle		X		
Acacia irrorata	Green Wattle	X	X		
Acacia leiocalyx subsp. leiocalyx	Curracabah		X		
Acacia longifolia subsp. longifolia	Sydney Golden Wattle		X		
Acacia longissima	Long-leaf Wattle		X		
Acacia maidenii	Maiden's Wattle	X	X		
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood	X			
Acacia oshanesii	Irish Wattle	Χ	X		
Allocasuarina littoralis	Black She-oak		X		

Allocasuarina torulosa	Forest Oak	X	X
Alphitonia excelsa	Red Ash	X	
Angophora costata	Smooth-barked Apple		Х
Angophora floribunda	Rough-barked Apple	Х	
Angophora subvelutina	Rough-barked Apple	Х	
Banksia collina	Hairpin Banksia		X
Banksia integrifolia	Coast Banksia		Х
Banksia oblongifolia	Fern-leaved Banksia		X
Callistemon citrinus	Crimson bottlebrush		X
Callistemon salignus	Pink-tipped Callistemon	X	
Callistemon sieberi	River Bottlebrush		X
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush	X	X
Casuarina cunninghamii	River Oak	Χ	
Casuarina glauca	Swamp Oak	X	
Corymbia gummifera	Red Bloodwood		X
Corymbia intermedia	Pink Bloodwood	X	X
Corymbia variegata	Spotted Gum		X
Eucalyptus acmenoides	White Mahogany	X	
Eucalyptus amplifolia	Cabbage Gum	X	
Eucalyptus carnea	Thick-leaved Mahogany		X
Eucalyptus crebra	Narrow-leaved ironbark		X
Eucalyptus dunnii	White Gum	X	
Eucalyptus eugenioides	Thin-leaved Stringybark		X
Eucalyptus fibrosa	Red Ironbark		X
Eucalyptus globoidea	White Stringybark		X
Eucalyptus grandis	Flooded Gum	X	
Eucalyptus microcorys	Tallowwood	X	
Eucalyptus moluccana	Grey Box		X
Eucalyptus pilularis	Blackbutt	Χ	X
Eucalyptus propingua	Small-fruited Grey Gum		Х
Eucalyptus resinifera ssp. hemilampra	Red Mahogany		Х
Eucalyptus robusta	Swamp Mahogany	Х	X
Eucalyptus saligna	Sydney Blue Gum	Χ	
Eucalyptus seeana	Narrow-leaved Red Gum	X	
Eucalyptus siderophloia	Grey Ironbark	X	X
Eucalyptus signata	Scribbly Gum		X
Eucalyptus tereticornis	Forest Red Gum	X	
Eucalyptus tindaliae	Tindall's Stringybark	^	X
	River Tea Tree		X
Leptospermum brachyandrum		V	
Leptospermum petersonii	Lemon-scented Teatree	X	X
Leptospermum polygalifolium	Tantoon		X

Leptospermum trinervium	Flaky-barked Tea Tree		X
Leptospermum whitei	White's Tea Tree		X
Lophostemon confertus	Brush Box	X	
Lophostemon suaveolens	Swamp Turpentine	X	
Melaleuca alternifolia	Tea Tree	X	
Melaleuca bracteata	Black tea-tree	X	
Melaleuca linariifolia	Flax-leaved Paperbark	X	
	Prickly-leaved		
Melaleuca nodosa	Paperbark		X
Melaleuca quinquenervia	Broad-leaved Paperbark	X	
Melaleuca sieberi	Sieber's Paperbark		X
	Prickly-leaved		
Melaleuca styphelioides	paperbark	X	
Syncarpia glomulifera	Turpentine	X	

Rainforest sites

Table B2: Species list for Rainforest sites

Species suitability Rainforest sites. All species listed grow above 2 m.

Rainforest sites	
Species	Common Name
Alphitonia excelsa	Red Ash
Commersonia bartramia	Brown Kurrajong
Duboisia myoporoides	Soft Corkwood
Dysoxylum mollissimum	Red Bean
Elaeocarpus angustifolia	Blue Quandong
Elaeocarpus obovatus	Hard Quandong
Ficus coronata	Creek Sandpaper Fig
Ficus fraseri	Sandpaper Fig
Ficus macrophylla	Moreton Bay Fig
Ficus rubiginosa	Rusty Fig
Ficus watkinsiana	Strangler Fig
Flindersia australis	Australian Teak
Flindersia schottiana	Cudgerie
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak
Jagera psuedorhus	Foambark Tree
Mallotus discolor	White Kamala
Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet Pittosporum
Polyscias elegans	Celery Wood

Polyscias murrayi	Pencil Cedar
Sloanea woollsii	Yellow Carabeen
Stenocarpus sinuatus	Firewheel Tree
Streblus brunonianus	Whalebone Tree
Syzygium australe	Scrub Cherry
Syzygium oleosum	Blue Lilly Pilly
Toona ciliata	Red Cedar
Tristaniopsis laurina	Water Gum
Waterhousea floribunda	Weeping Lilly Pilly

Wetlands (may include riparian and floodplain) sites

Table B3: Species list for Wetlands (may include riparian and floodplain) sites

Species suitability for Wetlands (may include riparian and floodplain) sites.

Wetlands (may include riparian and floodplain) sites				
Species	Common Name			
Acacia melanoxylon	Blackwood			
Angophora floribunda	Rough-barked Apple			
Angophora subvelutina	Rough-barked Apple			
Callistemon salignus	Pink-tipped Callistemon			
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush			
Casuarina cunninghamii	River Oak			
Casuarina glauca	Swamp Oak			
Eucalyptus amplifolia	Cabbage Gum			
Eucalyptus robusta	Swamp Mahogany			
Eucalyptus seeana	Narrow-leaved Red Gum			
Eucalyptus tereticornis	Forest Red Gum			
Leptospermum brachyandrum	River Tea Tree			
Lophostemon suaveolens	Swamp Turpentine			
Melaleuca alternifolia	Tea Tree			
Melaleuca bracteata	Black tea-tree			
Melaleuca linariifolia	Flax-leaved Paperbark			
Melaleuca quinquenervia	Broad-leaved Paperbark			
Melaleuca styphelioides	Prickly-leaved paperbark			
Tristaniopsis laurina	Water Gum			
Waterhousea floribunda	Weeping Lilly Pilly			

Brief activities schedule for revegetation in the North Coast

Table B4: North Coast calendar of activities for carbon/biodiversity projects

Month	Activity	Description
Summer	Order plants	Order plants early to guarantee supply.Crash graze sites to reduce biomass.
Autumn	Ground Preparation	 Actions prior to ripping Ripping Cultivate soil after ripping if there are large clods and mound soil if site is damp/waterlogged. Record length of ripping to gain an accurate number of plants needed (no. of plants = ripping length/5). Livestock must be kept off sites that have been prepared for planting, or else soil compaction may occur.
	Fencing	 Install stock proof fencing.
Winter	Planting Weed control (shelterbelts)	 One month prior to planting - by end of June at the latest. Apply knockdown and residual herbicide on 1 m wide strips along the rip line, which will control weed competition after planting. Only spray rip lines and not the entire site to reduce wind erosion and destruction of seedlings by cockatoos and hares.
	Pest Control	 Control rabbits and hares to help avoid the added expense of replanting or the need for tree guards
	Planting	 Plant before late August and 1 month after residual weed control. Take care when transporting plants from the nursery to reduce wind damage.
After Planting	Ongoing Maintenance	Regularly inspect planting for signs of pest or stock damage.
	Grazing of sites	 Livestock grazing should be excluded from each revegetation site for a minimum period of 3 years after planting has commenced.

Appendix C: Resources

Accounting for Nature

Website: https://www.accountingfornature.org/

Glossary of terms: https://www.accountingfornature.org/key-documents

Method catalogue (regulations can be found under each method)

https://www.accountingfornature.org/method-catalogue

Method regulations:

- F-01 Accounting for Natural Mammal Condition Method: https://www.accountingfornature.org/s/AFN-METHOD-F-01-V2-Accredited-26-Auguest-2021.pdf
- F-02: A native woodland bird assessment methodology for diverse regenerating farmlands
- Available on request. A video about the method is available here:
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?index=6&list=PLb_hirBxCu2H5KV6ku7RSRDQ26nXukP
 6J&v=n5Yjl9JYRCU
- F-04 Koala Population and Habitat Condition Method: https://www.accountingfornature.org/s/AFN-METHOD-F-04-V11Accredited-14
 December-2021.pdf
- Video available: https://youtu.be/CywQWx-3ahw
- NV-03: GreenCollar Native Vegetation Condition Monitoring Method: https://www.accountingfornature.org/s/AfN-METHOD-NV-03v22-6tnj.pdf
- Video available: https://youtu.be/qXs-bAft140
- NV-06: AfN and Landcare Native
 Vegetation: https://www.accountingfornature.org/s/AfN-METHOD-NV-06-v21-AfN-Landcare-Native-Veg-Method-Accredited-08-Feb-2021.pdf
- NV-07 Bush Heritage Australia Native Veg Assessment:
 https://www.accountingfornature.org/s/AfN-METHOD-NV-07-Accredited-26-June-2021-v31July-2022.pdf
- NV-13 NSW BCT Native Veg Monitoring: https://www.accountingfornature.org/s/AfN-METHOD-NV-13-v10Accredited-August-2023.pdf

Mapping and biodiversity and vegetation maps

Atlas of Living Australia, https://www.ala.org.au/

NSW BioNet resources, https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/biodiversity/nsw-bionet/resources

NSW State Vegetation Type Map of Plant Community Types on the SEED Portal,

https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/news-and-resources/news/nsw-state-vegetation-type-map-of-plant-community-types-now-available

SEED portal, https://www.seed.nsw.gov.au/

SIX Maps (nsw.gov.au), https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/

Google Earth, https://www.google.com/earth/about/

Regional resources and other guides

General

North Coast LLS website and information about Natural Capital:

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-coast

North Coast Natural Resource Management Plan:

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1449863/North-Coast-Local-Land-Services-NRM-Strategic-Plan-2022-2026-web.pdf

Rural Living Handbook 2020,

 $\frac{https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1147804/Rural-Living-Handbook-2020.pdf$

Revegetation Guides

BCT's Restoring Native Vegetation guidelines,

https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-

08/Restoring%20Native%20Vegetation%20Guidelines.pdf

Planting your patch - Hunter Local Land Services

Recognising habitat features - - Hunter Local Land Services,

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1434295/LLS_RecognisingHabitatFeatures-Hunter-LLS-Web-Version-Nov22.pdf

Regenerating Wet-sclerophyll Forest,

https://www.macleaylandcare.org.au/_files/ugd/01f308_7b032fabda2647fbb3ca3cb0025fbb24.pdf

Revegetation Tips and Tricks - Local Land Services,

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1456332/Revegetation-and-planting-tips-and-tricks-WEB.pdf

Riparian revegetation guide for the lower Macleay River,

https://www.macleaylandcare.org.au/_files/ugd/01f308_905e0989f06e45aaa27803319c0cdfa2.pdf

Coffs Harbour Landcare Revegetation Resources,

https://www.coffsharbourlandcare.org.au/resources/publication/revegetation/

Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance Resources, https://www.jaliigirr.com.au/our-resources/

Revegetating Streams in the Bellinger and Coffs Harbour Catchments,

https://www.bellingerlandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Revegetating-Streams-in-the-Bellinger-Coffs-Harbour-Catchments-1.pdf

Coffs Harbour Species selection for revegetation projects in Coffs Harbour Local

Government Area, https://www.bellingerlandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/20150309-SpeciesSelectionReport-web.pdf

Biodiversity of the Bellinger and Kalang River System,

https://www.bellingerlandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Biodiversity-Bellinger-and-Kalang-River-Systems.pdf

<u>Bellinger River Estuary Revegetation Guide</u>, https://www.bellingerlandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Bellinger-River-Estuary-revegetation-guide.pdf

Tips for tree planting success, Macleay Landcare,

https://www.macleaylandcare.org.au/_files/ugd/01f308_2efd577a216046449d66a5a5a58 9965d.pdf

Species selection guides

Macleay catchment riparian species selection guide,

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1468661/Macleay-catchment-factsheet-June2023.pdf

Mid to lower Clarence riparian species selection guide,

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1461490/Clarence-catchment-factsheet-V2.pdf

Nambucca catchment riparian species selection guide, Nambucca catchment riparian species selection guide,

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1468660/Nambucca-catchment-factsheet-June2023.pdf

Richmond catchment species selection guide,

https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/1468659/Richmond-catchment-factsheet-June2023.pdf

Net Zero Plan

