



## Frequently Asked Questions - Developing an ACCU Scheme method

### How do I develop a method proposal for the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme?

- Under the new interim proponent-led method development process, methods for the ACCU Scheme can be developed by any party or organisation. This process occurs through a multi-stage approach.
- First, proponents are invited to list their idea on the [Method Development Tracker](#).
- Second, proponents submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a new method using the [EOI template](#) and following the [EOI Guidelines](#).
- All EOIs are then assessed by the [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee](#) (ERAC) against a set of triaging criteria and their potential to meet the legislated [Offsets Integrity Standards](#).
- The [current EOI call](#) is open until 12 July 2024.
- The ERAC provides advice based on its assessment to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy.
- The Minister will determine which methods to prioritise for development, based on the ERAC's advice.
- The Minister's prioritisation decision will be published. Everyone who submits an EOI will be advised in writing of the outcome. This advice will include feedback on the EOI.
- The ERAC's advice to the Minister will also be published.
- If the method proposal is prioritised, the ERAC Secretariat will engage with the method developer to guide them through the method development process.

### What is a method module or a method variation?

- The [Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units \(the ACCU Review\)](#) introduced the concept of a method module as a modification of an existing method. In this interim phase, modules will be implemented as method variations.
- A method variation is a change to an existing method. Variations can be made for many reasons including introducing new activities or new measurement approaches.



- Varying a method requires following the same steps as creating a new method under the interim proponent led method development process. This includes submitting an EOI and if it is prioritised developing the variation, undergoing public consultation and have the Minister consider whether to make the variation.
- Currently, a module would be a variation to method.

### Can I use an international method?

- You are welcome to progress a new method or method variation based on a method in another carbon crediting scheme.
- If this is the case, please provide details with your method idea and/or EOI.

### When are submissions for new method proposals due?

- EOIs are due 12 July 2024.
- There will be future opportunities to submit an EOI.
- The ERAC Chair has announced an intention to hold 2 EOI rounds each year.
- The decision to hold another EOI in 2024 will be made after the current EOI round closes.
- Method ideas can be listed on the method development tracker at any time.
- It is recommended you submit your method idea as early as possible, so you can identify opportunities to collaborate with other method developers before you start preparing an EOI.

### What is the difference between a method idea and an Expression of Interest?

- Method ideas are the first stage of the method development process and will be published on the [Method Development Tracker](#).
- Method ideas are a short description of your proposed abatement activity and abatement calculation, and do not require supporting information.
- Publishing method ideas aims to help method developers find others to collaborate with when developing their EOI.
- EOIs are the second stage of the method development process. EOIs are required to include more details of your proposal accompanied by additional information to support any claims and assumptions being made.



## Why is the method development process changing?

- [The ACCU Review](#) recommended changing the method development process from being government-led to proponent-led to increase transparency, flexibility, and drive more innovation through bringing forward new opportunities to reduce emissions through the ACCU Scheme.
- The new interim proponent-led method development process is the first step in implementing that recommendation.

## I have an idea for a method but do not have the resources to develop it. What can I do?

- You can submit your idea even if you do not have the resources to develop it.
- Your idea will be published on the [Method Development Tracker](#) and can indicate you are interested in collaboration with others to develop the idea into an EOI for a new method.
- Publishing your idea does not guarantee it will be developed into a method.

## Where can I see methods under development?

- The [Method Development Tracker](#) contains information about method ideas, expressions of interests, and the methods under development.

## I have questions about a method proposal or would like to be involved in developing a method that someone else has proposed. Who do I contact?

- To contact a method developer, please contact the ERAC Secretariat ([methodproposal@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:methodproposal@dcceew.gov.au)). The Secretariat will connect you to the method developer so you can engage with them directly on the method proposal.
- All draft methods will be publicly consulted on. The [Method Development Tracker](#) will note when method proposals are open for consultation.

## I've already started an activity that reduces emissions (such as a trial project or data collection). Can I still propose a method for this activity? Or does this mean the activity is no longer 'new'?

- Currently, projects cannot register under the ACCU Scheme if they are considered as having already started. This is the 'newness' requirement under the additionality test.



- Methods can contain ‘in lieu of newness’ provisions, which can allow for certain activities that may have commenced prior to a project’s registration with the Clean Energy Regulator.
- The Clean Energy Regulator’s assessment of newness will always be project and method specific.

### What is permanence under the ACCU Scheme?

- Under the ACCU Scheme, all area-based projects have permanence obligations.
- A permanence obligation is a requirement to maintain the carbon stored or sequestered by a project for a set period of time.
- If carbon stored in vegetation or soil as part of a project is released back into the atmosphere, it can reverse the environmental benefit of the sequestration project. Permanence obligations ensure that ACCUs are only issued for carbon stored in soil and vegetation.
- A permanence period can be either 25 or 100 years. Sequestration is considered permanent when maintained on a net basis for 100 years.
- Sequestration projects with a 25-year permanence period are subject to a 20% discount or reduction in the abatement that might be credited.
- All sequestration projects also receive a 5% discount or ‘risk of reversal buffer’ to protect the ACCU Scheme against potential loss of carbon and other risks that can’t be managed by other permanence arrangements.

### Who do I go to for help with my EOI?

- There will be weekly information sessions to support proponents to develop their EOIs and answer specific questions. Please use [this link to register](#) for one or more session.
- If you have a specific question that you would like answered in an information session, please email the ERAC Secretariat ([methodproposal@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:methodproposal@dcceew.gov.au)).

### How many EOIs can I submit?

- You can submit as many EOIs as you like.
- If they are all prioritised you will be responsible for developing them all into methods.
- EOIs can be resubmitted in future rounds.



## I have submitted an EOI, what now?

- The [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee](#) (ERAC) will assess EOIs against their potential to meet legislated [Offsets Integrity Standards](#) once fully developed.
- The ERAC will also use triaging criteria in their assessment and in developing their advice to the Minister.
- The ERAC will provide advice on its assessment to the Minister, which will include advice on prioritisation.
- This advice will inform the Minister's decision on which EOIs should be progressed for method development.
- If your EOI is prioritised by the Minister, you can begin method development.
- The ERAC or the ERAC Secretariat may reach out to you to discuss your EOI in more detail during this process.

## What are the triaging criteria?

- The [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee](#) (ERAC) will use triaging criteria to assess the EOIs to inform its advice to the Minister on prioritisation.
- The primary triage criteria are:
  - The scale of potential carbon abatement under the method, including likely uptake.
  - The method's complexity (how easily it could be developed into a method).
- The secondary triage criteria are:
  - Whether the proposal could generate social, environmental, economic, or cultural co-benefits, including for First Nations peoples.
  - Whether the proposal incentivises innovation.
  - Whether the activities in the proposal could have any adverse environmental, economic, or social impacts, and the extent to which these can be managed.

## How do you demonstrate collaboration?

- Your EOI should outline how you have worked with others in developing your proposal.
- The [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee](#) will be interested in how you have collaborated with others to develop the proposal as this will indicate you have considered multiple inputs and may indicate likely uptake, which is a consideration in the triaging criteria.



## What if I need to do further work on elements of a method (e.g. measurement and verification protocols)? Can I still submit an EOI?

- An EOI should only be an outline of your proposed method. You are not expected to have completed all the research necessary needed. However, it will be useful to the Emission Reduction Assurance Committee's assessment of your EOI if you indicate where additional work is or likely to be needed.
- Where there is scientific uncertainty around a component of the proposed method, please explain why this uncertainty exists and what work is being undertaken to resolve it.
- It is important to be aware of the resource and time intensive nature of method development. This may impact an organisation's ability to progress multiple streams of work.

## My EOI was prioritised. What next?

- The ERAC Secretariat will work with you on developing your method proposal.
- In consultation with the method developer, the department will be responsible for drafting the methodology determination to give effect to the method proposal.
- The method developer will be responsible for preparing the method's simple method guide with support from the ERAC Secretariat.
- Before going out for public consultation, the [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee \(ERAC\)](#) will assess the draft methodology determination against the legislated [Offsets Integrity Standards](#).
- The method developer will be responsible for assessing comments received during the public consultation process and revising the proposal as necessary.
- ERAC will undertake a further assessment of the final draft methodology determination against the legislated [Offsets Integrity Standards](#) and advise the Minister on whether to make the draft method.

## How long does it take to develop a method?

- The time taken to develop a method will depend on its complexity, the resources available to the method developer, and evidence available to support the proposed method's abatement calculations.
- The aim is for methods to be completed within 24 months from prioritisation.



- The [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee](#) (ERAC) will assess all EOIs against their potential to meet the legislated Offsets Integrity Standards.
- In carrying out this assessment, the ERAC may ask you for more information to support your method proposal.

### My EOI was not prioritised. What do I do next?

- You can resubmit your EOI in a future round if it was not prioritised.
- The [Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee](#) (ERAC) will provide you feedback on your EOI and we encourage you to respond to that feedback if you resubmit.
- The ERAC will also publish a summary of the feedback provided on EOIs following the Minister's decision.