



Nature Repair Market Draft Bill

Supporting the participation of First Nations people

The rights and interests of First Nations people are recognised on approximately 50% of Australia's land area. First Nations people have cared for country for thousands of years and the biodiversity we enjoy today is a product of their stewardship.

The nature repair market is designed to enable participation by First Nations people and ensure free, prior and informed consent to projects on their land. Projects could include traditional land management to protect and improve biodiversity as well as land restoration.

The development of the draft *Nature Repair Market Bill* (the Bill) has considered feedback from First Nations people, including how it could enable communities to use cultural, environmental, social and economic assets. The Australian Government is committed to working with First Nations people to identify barriers and opportunities to participate in, and earn income from, the nature repair market.

How can First Nations' people participate in the market?

First Nations people can participate in the market by undertaking projects that deliver biodiversity improvements or protect biodiversity. They could also provide on-ground management services or advice to support nature repair projects managed by others.

Projects can be undertaken on any land, including lakes and rivers as well as marine and coastal environments. It's not just about repairing what is broken, but also protecting land that is in good condition. A lot of Indigenous land has never been cleared but still benefits from management activities and protection.

Biodiversity projects may be additional to existing carbon projects on an area of land. Projects could include management of feral animals, and weed and fire regimes that improve biodiversity in a carbon sequestration project.

How will First Nations people be involved in further market design?

Methodology determinations set out the rules for different types of projects. The Government will work in partnership with First Nations people to identify the priorities for methodology development. This will ensure there are early opportunities for projects on First Nations land.

Priority methodology determinations will be co-designed with First Nations to support and ensure appropriate use of traditional knowledge and management practices.

The ongoing contribution of First Nations people will be important for development of the broader market framework. The Nature Repair Market Committee (the Committee) will include a person with Indigenous Knowledge. The Committee will also be given a mandate to seek further advice from First Nations people on the design of the market.

How will First Nations rights and interests be protected?

A project must have the consent of any exclusive and non-exclusive Native Title holders before it can be registered and be eligible to receive a biodiversity certificate. This ensures that First Nations people can negotiate a share of project benefits or to participate in implementation of projects on their land. It also ensures that Indigenous Knowledge and practice can be incorporated in the project as appropriate.

The Minister can exclude projects likely to have material adverse impacts to availability of water, biodiversity, or First Nations communities who have a connection to the land. While detailed information about a biodiversity project will normally be published on the public register, this information may be withheld if it would lead to disclosing the location of culturally sensitive areas.

More information

Learn more about the [Nature Repair Market](#).

For any specific enquiries please email naturerepairmarket@dcceew.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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