Nature Repair Market Draft Bill

Biodiversity Certificates

What is a biodiversity certificate?

The nature repair market establishes a framework for issuing, tracking and ensuring the integrity of biodiversity certificates.

Biodiversity certificates provide an easy way for businesses, governments and individuals to invest in nature repair projects – without owning an interest in the land.

A **single certificate** will be issued for each project. Certificates will provide **standardised information** to enable the market to compare and value projects.

Certificates will be listed, and their status and ownership tracked via a **public register**. This will help certificate owners show their shareholders, customers and employees how they are supporting nature repair.

The *Nature Repair Market Bill* (the Bill) includes provisions to ensure the ongoing integrity of **biodiversity certificates**. These are designed to ensure the market can have confidence that **biodiversity certificates** will always accurately describe the projects and the outcomes it is achieving for nature. For more information, please see our factsheet on ensuring integrity.

What information would be on the certificate?

The information on the biodiversity certificate will include:

- the type of project, for example protection of existing high-quality habitat or restoration of habitat
- the area and location of the project
- the type of habitat, its conservation priority and any threatened species
- the activities that will be undertaken, for example fencing, weeding, in-fill planting and pest control
- the initial condition of the habitat and the expected change in condition of the habitat as a result of the project, including benefits for threatened species and ecological communities
- the duration of the project, for example protection in perpetuity or management for 10
 years (because the land is already protected under a conservation covenant)

Biodiversity certificates could also include information about other matters such as First Nations engagement and community benefits.

Proponents will be required to monitor and report on their projects, including its benefits for biodiversity. Proponents will also have to report relevant changes to the project such as impacts of bushfire. Certificates will be updated to reflect this information. This will ensure certificates always provide accurate information about the project and its benefits for nature.

How will a biodiversity certificate work?

Comparing and valuing certificates

Standardised information on the **biodiversity certificate** will enable buyers to compare key attributes across different types of projects. This information can be used to decide how much the certificate is worth.

Guidance materials will be developed to support buyers in the market. This will include information on how the project aligns with science-based conservation and management priorities and how much management activities cost to implement.

Making claims

Businesses are increasingly wanting to invest in nature. They need a simple, credible and recognised way to show their shareholders, consumers and employees what they are doing to contribute to nature repair.

The owner of a certificate can use this to make and support claims about their investment in nature. Information about certificates and projects will be included on a public register, with reporting requirements to keep information up to date.

Guidance material will be developed, in consultation with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commissions, to support how claims are made.

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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