

Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water



Replanting Native Forest and Woodland Ecosystems Method

Nature Repair Market methods

Methods are legislative instruments made under Part 4 of the *Nature Repair Act 2023* (the Act). To participate in the Nature Repair Scheme, biodiversity projects must be registered under an approved method.

Methods define the conditions that must be met for a project to be registered and for proponents to be issued with a biodiversity certificate. Methods also specify the activities that project proponents can carry out and any restricted or prohibited activities.

Methods can include requirements relating to reporting, notification, record keeping and project monitoring. They can also require projects to have a project plan which sets out how the project will to be carried out and how it will achieve its biodiversity outcome.

Methods must be consistent with the biodiversity integrity standards defined in the Act, and a biodiversity assessment instrument (BAI). The committee is currently consulting on the <u>BAI</u>.

The Minister for the Environment and Water approves methods for the Nature Repair Market with advice from the Nature Repair Committee. The committee is reviewing the proposed Replanting Native Forest and Woodland Ecosystems Method and is conducting public consultation as required by the Act. The committee will advise the minister whether this proposed method complies with the biodiversity integrity standards.

Replanting Native Forest and Woodland Ecosystems method

The proposed Replanting Native Forest and Woodland Ecosystems Method is intended to enhance biodiversity in native species by restoring native forests and woodlands to cleared areas through environmental plantings, using direct seeding or propagated seedling stock. Restoration of cleared native forest and woodland ecosystems will allow enhancement and protection of biodiversity in modified intensive use landscapes by improving the extent and condition of native vegetation and ecological connectivity.

The method is designed to enable the option to stack projects that use it with projects under the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme's *Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings FullCAM* method. Stacking would allow projects that meet the requirements of the ACCU and the Nature Repair Market schemes to generate carbon credits and a biodiversity certificate. Project

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activities implemented under this method must deliver a biodiversity outcome that would be unlikely to occur if the project was not carried out. This may require plantings that more closely reflect the composition and structure of the reference ecosystem(s).

The method was developed in collaboration with the Australian National University and builds on the Carbon + Biodiversity (C+B) Pilot that was part of the government's agriculture biodiversity stewardship initiative. The C+B Pilot is trialling a mechanism to provide biodiversity co-payments to projects registered with the ACCU Scheme that generate biodiversity co-benefits.

The method has involved engagement and consultation with a range of experts and stakeholders. This included cconsultation with Natural Resource Management groups as part of the development and implementation of the C+B Pilot, and a Carbon + Biodiversity workshop (held 14 December 2023) which sought stakeholder views on the possible scope and coverage of a method based on the C+B Pilot. It also included a cross-sectoral Nature Repair methods workshop (held 2 November 2023) where stakeholders provided insights on the needs of the Nature Repair Market, key method design elements, and the method development process. For further details see: <u>https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/methods-have-your-say.</u>

More information

Learn more about Nature Repair Act 2023

Web Nature Repair Market - DCCEEW

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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