



Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units

January 2023

To help meet Australia's legislated emissions targets of a 43% cut on 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050, we need a strong, credible carbon crediting scheme and a thriving carbon market.

The Independent Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) was commissioned to address concerns about the ACCU scheme, ensure the integrity of credits generated under the ACCU methods, and ensure that participants, purchasers and the broader community have confidence in them.

Australia's former Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb AC led the expert panel review. Professor Chubb was supported by the Hon Dr Annabelle Bennett AC SC, Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds, and Ms Ariadne Gorrington – experts in the fields of governance, science and carbon markets.

About the review process

Over the course of 6 months, the panel examined the ACCU scheme's architecture and administration, and considered the broader impacts of ACCU projects, including for agriculture, biodiversity, participation of First Nations peoples, and regional communities.

The panel consulted widely with technical and carbon industry experts; federal, state and territory government departments and agencies; regional councils; First Nations and Native Title representative groups; carbon service providers and scheme participants; broader industry bodies; environmental non-government organisations; and current and former scheme administrators.

A [discussion paper](#) released by the panel on 29 August 2022 received over 200 written public submissions. The panel visited project sites in urban and rural settings to investigate methods and project implementation, and commissioned expert scientific advice, which was [published](#).

About the recommendations

The panel delivered the report to the government on 20 December 2022 concluding that the ACCU scheme arrangements were sound with mechanisms for regular review and improvement.

The panel recommended improvements to the scheme and changes to clarify governance, improve transparency, facilitate positive project outcomes and co-benefits, and enhance confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of the scheme. Collectively, these will ensure the scheme continues to align with best practice.

The government has accepted in principle all the panel's recommendations. Recognising that these reforms will have implications for a wide range of market participants, government agencies, and other stakeholders, the government will now work with stakeholders on implementation, including any associated legislative amendments.

More information

Read the [Review of Australian Carbon Credit Units: Final Report](#).

Read the [Government's response to the Review](#).