

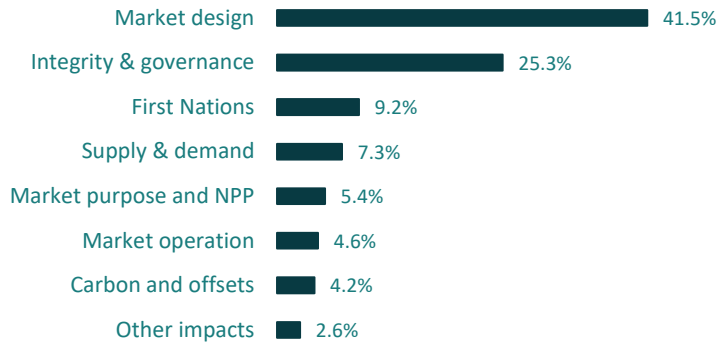


Australian Government

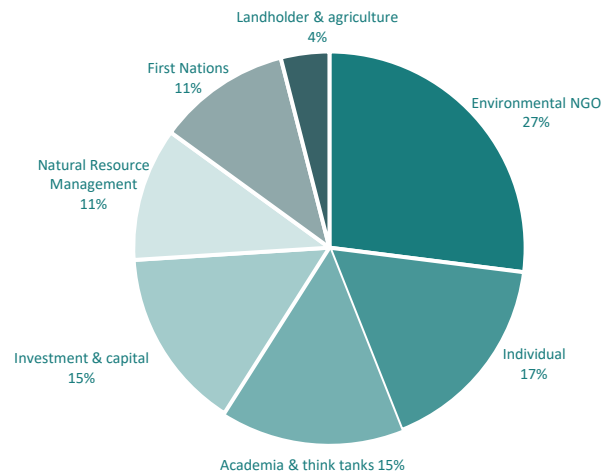
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Nature Repair Market: Stakeholder feedback

Themes raised by stakeholders



Submissions by sector



Key themes (Government responses in bold)

Ensuring integrity

Integrity was key for both investors and environmental groups. Stakeholders want nature repair projects to provide measurable, positive biodiversity outcomes over time, with the option for projects to protect nature in perpetuity. **Integrity protections in the Bill have been strengthened by requiring the independent expert advisory committee to always have an expert in biodiversity, clarifying that the committee can obtain other expert advice, and expanding the terms of independent statutory reviews to include method making. The Bill addresses recommendations of Professor Chubb's review of Australian Carbon Credit Units where appropriate, and includes default permanence periods of 25 and 100 years.**

Matching supply and demand

Stakeholders asked to know more about demand and how quickly this will grow. They want to streamline the administration of carbon plus biodiversity projects and ensure processes enable participation by individual landholders and small organisations. Some want Government as a buyer; others see this as stifling the market and prefer the Government to provide information to the market about environmental priorities. **The Government will outline investment priorities and is supporting the international taskforce on nature related financial risk disclosure, which will drive longer term demand. It will support market participation by developing guidance materials and template contracts. The legislation enables Government purchasing, subject to future budget decisions.**

Certificates or Units

Some stakeholders would prefer projects to be issued with multiple fungible units rather than a biodiversity certificate, as they would be easier for investors and intermediaries to compare and trade. **There is no agreed metric for measuring biodiversity, such as tonnes or metres. Methods will enable some aspects of biodiversity outcomes to be described in increments or units and regular project reports will confirm gains over time.**

Use of projects as regulatory offsets

Some stakeholders want to prevent projects certified under the nature repair market from being used as regulatory offsets; others recognise this could improve the availability of high-integrity offset projects. **The Government is reforming environmental laws, including offset requirements. It will legislate to ensure offsets are a last resort and, if required, more than compensate for the impacts of development. The new laws will determine the types of projects which could be used to more than compensate for development and will be out for consultation later this year.**

First Nations participation and interests

First Nations organisations called for best practice consent processes and control over cultural knowledge and practices. They emphasised the interconnection between biodiversity and culture and asked for close involvement in implementation. **The Bill has been amended to recognise First Nations people in its objects, ensure First Nations representation on the expert committee at all times, and protect First Nations interests at key decision points such as making methods. First Nations people and organisations will be involved in scheme implementation including co-design of methods.**