



Nature Repair Market Bill

Australia's natural environment is deteriorating. The job of reversing this decline is too big for governments on their own. Private investment is also needed.

The Australian Government is committed to better protecting our environment and increasing investment in nature repair.

Establishing a nature repair market will make it easier for businesses and philanthropic organisations to invest in nature repair and create opportunities for landholders to better protect and manage their land.

Environmental leadership and delivery

The Australian Government is developing a nature repair market to make it easier for businesses, organisations, governments and individuals to invest in projects to protect, manage and restore nature.

The Australian Government has committed to protecting 30 per cent of Australia's land and seas by 2030. The same goals have been adopted globally under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. These goals reinforce the findings of the 2021 State of the Environment Report, which confirmed our natural environment is in poor condition and getting worse.

Business and private sector investment can make a significant contribution to nature repair. Businesses are increasingly looking for ways to demonstrate their environmental credentials and achieve positive outcomes for nature.

The nature repair market will be based on science and underpinned by legislation to ensure its integrity. It will encourage investment in nature repair and drive environmental improvements across Australia.

What is the Nature Repair Market Bill?

The *Nature Repair Market Bill* (the Bill) establishes a transparent framework to issue Australian landholders with tradeable biodiversity certificates for projects that protect, manage and restore nature.

It will enable the Clean Energy Regulator to issue Australian landholders with tradeable biodiversity certificates for projects that protect, manage, and restore nature. These certificates can then be sold to businesses, organisations, governments, and individuals.

The Bill includes a wide range of provisions to ensure certificates have integrity so the market can invest with confidence.

The Bill ensures these certificates can be tracked through a public register and contain standardised information so investors can compare and value projects.

Regular project reports will describe and verify environmental benefits over time and be publicly accessible via the register.

The market is designed to operate in parallel with carbon markets, so landholders can get certificates from carbon projects that create biodiversity. The market will be regulated by the Clean Energy Regulator to help align carbon and biodiversity markets.

Which landholders and projects will be eligible?

All landholders, including First Nations peoples, conservation groups and farmers can participate in the market. Landholders can undertake projects to improve or protect existing habitat as well as projects to establish or restore habitat.

Projects can be on land, inland waterways (lakes and rivers), or in marine and coastal environments.

Example projects include:

- improving or restoring existing native vegetation, through fencing or weeding
- planting a mix of local species
- protecting rare grasslands that provide habitat for endangered species.

How will the Bill support development of the market?

The nature repair market will be underpinned by legislation to ensure confidence and trust in the scheme’s operation. The Bill includes provisions to ensure that nature projects are based on the best available science, and to promote public accountability and transparency.

These provisions include:

- an independent, expert **Nature Repair Market Committee** to advise the Minister on scheme integrity
- **methodology determinations** setting out the requirements for different types of projects, which are made by the **Minister**, following advice from the **Nature Repair Market Committee** that the methodology meets legislated **biodiversity integrity standards**
- a consistent way of measuring improvements in biodiversity set out in an overarching **biodiversity assessment instrument**
- requirements for **biodiversity projects** to be undertaken in line with a methodology determination
- tradeable **biodiversity certificates** that are regulated to ensure they provide accurate information about projects
- a public **register** of projects and certificates which includes information about their ownership, and provides access to reports about project delivery and environmental outcomes
- an **assurance and compliance** framework to maintain integrity in the market and provide confidence projects are being delivered as expected.

Further consultation will occur in 2023 as the government develops details of the market required to open for trading in the second half of 2024, including on methodology determinations and rules.

Roles and responsibilities established by the Bill

Participant	Description	Function
Minister for the Environment and Water	The Minister for the Environment and Water has oversight of the scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • administers the Bill and develops scheme policy • appoints members of the expert advisory committee • makes, varies, or revokes methodologies • makes legislative instruments

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> directs matters to be considered in statutory reviews
Nature Repair Market Committee	<p>5-6 members with substantial experience and significant standing in a field of relevant expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agriculture biological or ecological science economics environmental markets Indigenous knowledge land management <p>The appointments in bold text are mandatory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> advises Minister on making, varying, and revoking biodiversity assessment instrument and methodologies (this information will be publicly available) monitors compliance of methodologies with the biodiversity integrity standards undertakes public consultation on making and varying methodologies and biodiversity assessment instrument advice to the Minister on prioritisation of methodology determinations may seek expert advice to support functions
Department	The Commonwealth department administered by the Minister for the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> co-designs with First Nations groups and other stakeholders on biodiversity assessment instrument and methodologies Secretariat for Nature Repair Market Committee Secretary has powers to purchase biodiversity certificates supports and facilitates the market, for example developing a trading platform, template contracts and guidance documents
Clean Energy Regulator	An independent statutory authority responsible for administering the scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assesses application to register, vary, cancel projects, and issue biodiversity certificates undertakes education, assurance, monitoring, compliance, and enforcement of the scheme maintains public register of projects and certificates, and publishes information to support the market
Landholder	The eligible person/s listed in the Register in relation to a registered biodiversity project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> complies with biodiversity project requirements conducts reporting, notification, record keeping and project monitoring is issued with biodiversity certificate enters contracts to sell biodiversity certificates
Buyer	The entity that has purchased, and is the holder of, a biodiversity certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meets account opening requirements enters contracts to buy and sell biodiversity certificates

More information

For specific enquiries, please email naturerepairmarket@dceew.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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