Request to be considered as a Low Risk Plantation Forestry Project

|  |
| --- |
| FORM |
| CER-ACCU-003 |
| V2.0 28/03/2025 |

under section 73(7)(d) of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015

# Purpose of this form

Low risk projects covered by the [Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Plantation Forestry) Methodology Determination 2022](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2022L00047/latest/versions) (the plantation forestry 2022 method), may be eligible to be an alternative assurance project.

To be eligible, a project under the plantation forestry 2022 method must meet the criteria set out in section 9 of the [Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) (Audit Thresholds) Instrument 2025](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2025L00373/latest/text) (the Audit Thresholds Instrument), and the project proponent must request for the project to be an alternative assurance project.

Alternative assurance projects in this category are called low risk plantation forestry projects. These projects are only required to undergo one scheduled audit, which is an initial audit. Instead, the Clean Energy Regulator will use geospatial tools, among other measures, to verify the project’s compliance with legislative requirements.

## New projects

Submit this form at the same time you apply to register your plantation forestry project as an eligible offsets project, in accordance with section 13(1)(r) of the [Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2015L00156/latest/text) (the CFI Rule). Your project must meet the eligibility criteria specified in section 9 of the Audit Thresholds Instrument to be a low risk plantation forestry project.

## Existing projects

If your project is already registered as an eligible offsets project under the plantation forestry 2022 method, you can use this form to apply for your project to become an alternative assurance project, as per section 73(7d) of the CFI Rule. Your project must meet the eligibility criteria to be a low risk plantation forestry project.

Eligibility

To be eligible as a low risk plantation forestry project:

* the anticipated and reported total size of all carbon estimation areas for the project must be no more than 200 hectares
* the project must be subject to geospatial tool monitoring by the Clean Energy Regulator, such as the use of satellite imagery to monitor the progress of the project
* the project must be a plantation forestry project defined in the plantation forestry 2022 method covered by either or both paragraph 8(1)(a) (Schedule 1, establishing new plantation forests) and paragraph 8(1)(b) (Schedule 2, converting short-rotation plantation forests to long-rotation plantation forests).

Projects involving the avoided conversion of an existing or recently harvested plantation, or the transition of a plantation forest to a permanent forest, are not eligible to be low risk plantation forestry projects.

If the project no longer meets the eligibility criteria for being a low risk plantation forestry project at any stage, it will no longer be eligible to remain as an alternative assurance project. If this happens, we may require additional scheduled audits to be undertaken, as per the audit requirements for a standard (that is, not low risk) project under the plantation forestry 2022 method.

# Instructions for completing this form

You must complete and submit:

* **Part A:** Applicant details
* **Part B:** Project details
* **Part C:** Declaration

You can choose to complete this form by:

* printing the form and filling it in by hand
* saving the form and filling in an electronic copy.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pen colours | Please use a **black** or **blue** pen to write on the form. |
| Check boxes | Mark boxes like this £ with a ✔ or ✘. When an instruction asks you to ‘tick’ the box, you can still use either ✔ or ✘. |
| Go to | Where you see an instruction like this - **£** Go to **question 5** - mark the relevant box with a ✔ or ✘and then skip to the question number shown. You do not need to answer the question(s) in between.  Where an instruction has a black double arrow (8), go to the next indicated part/section. Where an instruction has a black single arrow (4), go to the next question. Where an instruction has a black single arrow pointing down (6), fill in the field(s) directly below. |
| Mandatory questions | If all fields in a question are mandatory and must be completed, **(required)** is added to the end of the question label text. If a field in a question is mandatory only IF a condition is met, **(required if any)** is added to the end of the question label text. |
| 4 | This symbol indicates an instruction on what to do next. |
| i | This symbol indicates additional useful guidance to filling in the adjacent field or section. |
| 4 | This symbol advises that more than one entry may be required for the section and therefore you may need to photocopy or print the section or fill in a duplicate section. |
| ë | This symbol advises that additional documentation to support a claim may need to be attached to the application. |
| Duplex printing | This form is designed to be duplex printed to save on paper. All new sections start on the right-hand side of a page spread. |

1. Applicant details

Complete this part to identify:

* the proposed project proponent or appointed nominee making an application to register a new project under the plantation forestry 2022 method
* the project proponent or appointed nominee of an existing project registered under the plantation forestry 2022 method.

1. Applicant details (required)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant name |  | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of birth (individual only) | Day (dd) | | | Month (mm) | | | | Year (yyyy) | | |
|  | | |  | | | |  | | |
| Organisation identifier | ABN |  | ACN | |  | ARBN |  | | ICN |  |
|  | | | | | | | | | |

1. Project details
2. Project details (required)

* For new projects, provide the ‘register a project’ application number found in Online Services.
* For existing projects, provide the Project ID issued to the project (for example, ERFxxxxxx).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project or application number |  |
| Project name |  |

1. Declaration

This part must be signed by:

* the proposed project proponent or appointed nominee applying to register a new eligible offsets project, or
* the project proponent or appointed nominee for an existing.

This part may also be signed **on behalf** of the proponent/nominee by a person duly authorised to bind them.

* Where a signatory is signing on behalf of a proposed project proponent, project proponent or appointed nominee, please attach evidence of an authority of the signatory to sign the declaration on their behalf at the time of submission.

1. By checking each box below, I confirm the following in relation to the project identified in Part B:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | I am requesting for this project to be an alternative assurance project, according to the meaning given in subsection 73(7) of [the CFI Rule](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C01069). |
|  | The project involves either the establishment of new plantation forests, the conversion of short-rotation plantation forests to long-rotation plantation forests, or both these activities. The project does not involve the continuing existing plantation forests, or the transition of a plantation forest to a permanent forest. |
|  | The anticipated and reported total size of all carbon estimation areas for the project is no more than 200 hectares. |
|  | I understand that if the project does not meet, or ceases to meet, eligibility criteria as a low risk plantation forestry project, it will not be eligible as an alternative assurance project and further scheduled audits carried out under the plantation forestry method will apply. |
|  | I understand the Clean Energy Regulator undertakes geospatial monitoring of alternative assurance projects in the low risk plantation forestry category, and agree for such monitoring to occur in respect of this project. |

By signing below, the signatory:

* declares that the information supplied in this form is true and correct and that they are authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant named in the form
* acknowledges that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence and carries penalties under the *Criminal* *Code* *Act* *1995*.

**Signed by or on behalf of:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project proponent/ appointed nominee name |  |

**By:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signatory name |  |
| Title/position |  |
| Organisation (if applicable) |  |
| Signature |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Day (dd) | Month (mm) | Year (yyyy) |
| Signature date |  |  |  |

Help filling in this form

If you require assistance or have any questions regarding this application process, please contact the Clean Energy Regulator general enquiries line on **1300 553 542** or email [enquiries@cer.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cer.gov.au).

Submitting this form

Applicants seeking to register a new project under the plantation forestry 2022 method may upload this form with their registration application in [Online Services](https://onlineservices.cer.gov.au/).

Proponents/appointed nominees of existing projects under the plantation forestry 2022 method can submit this request via email to [CER-ERFPlantingsPlantations@cer.gov.au](mailto:CER-ERFPlantingsPlantations@cer.gov.au).

A copy of this form must be kept for your records.

Assessment of the application

For new projects under the plantation forestry 2022 method, the information in this form will be assessed as part of your declaration of an eligible offsets project application. Your project will be approved as an alternative assurance project with reduced audit requirements if your:

* project application meets the legislative requirements to be declared as an eligible offsets project, and
* project meets the eligibility criteria in the Audit Thresholds Instrument for being a low risk plantation forestry project.

The reduced audit requirement will be recorded in the audit schedule accompanying the copy of the project declaration.

For existing projects under the plantation forestry 2022 method, the information in this form will determine if we vary the audit schedule of the project, in accordance with section 73(5)(aa) of the CFI Rule. You will be informed of this decision by email.

Publishing of information

Information about registered projects is included in the ACCU Scheme Project Register on [our website](https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/accu-project-and-contract-register?view=Projects) in accordance with sections 166A, 167 and 168 of the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011*.

Protection of information

The Clean Energy Regulator is bound by the secrecy provisions in Part 3 of the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* in relation to the protected information it collects in relation to this application and by the *Privacy Act 1988* in regard to personal information it collects.

Privacy statement

‘Personal information’ is defined in the *Privacy Act 1988* to mean information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:

1. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and
2. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

Personal information collected in relation to this application will be used for the purpose of assessing the application, auditing compliance, enforcement of relevant laws and regulations and for related purposes. The collection of personal information is authorised by the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* and other relevant Act(s).

The Clean Energy Regulator’s Privacy Policy contains information about the agency’s procedures for handling personal information including how a person can access their personal information held by the agency, and how to seek correction of such information. The Privacy Policy also contains information about how to complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles. The Clean Energy Regulator’s Privacy Policy can be found at [www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au](http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au).

Disclosure of information

The Clean Energy Regulator and authorised staff are only able to disclose information relating to the affairs of a person (including personal information) collected in relation to this application in accordance with the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* or as otherwise required by law.

Part 3 of the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* prevents disclosure of relevant information except in circumstances set out in that Part. Those circumstances include:

* disclosure for the purposes of a climate change law or a biodiversity law
* disclosure to the Minister
* disclosure of summaries or statistics if those summaries or statistics are not likely to enable the identification of a person
* disclosure to certain bodies where the Chair of the Clean Energy Regulator is satisfied that disclosure will assist those bodies in the performance of their functions or powers, including the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
* disclosure for the purposes of enforcement of the criminal law, enforcement of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty or for protection of the public revenue, if the Chair of the Clean Energy Regulator is satisfied that disclosure is reasonably necessary for such purpose.

Accessibility disclaimer

The Clean Energy Regulator has worked to ensure that this document is accessible but please contact us to obtain an alternative version if you are having difficulty or you have specific accessibility needs. Please call **1300 553 542** or email the name of the form and your needs to [enquiries@cer.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au).