

Environmental Plantings Carbon Farming Loans

At Rabobank, we're focussed on helping our clients adopt practical sustainability strategies that make sense for their business.

For some, establishing an ACCU¹ scheme Environmental Plantings carbon farming project (EP Project)² may not only be designed to **support specific sustainability outcomes, but wider co-benefits for their farming operations** as well.

However, establishment costs may need to be carefully considered, as they may pose a barrier for some. This is why we are working with the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) to **help reduce the upfront costs** associated with establishing new EP Projects.

This funding investment from the CEFC will support Rabobank to provide an **interest rate discount of up to 1.15% per annum on Environmental Plantings Carbon Farming Loans** to help ease initial borrowing costs for eligible activities related to establishing new EP projects.

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“Initiatives like this help to create more pathways for farmers to support their sustainability strategies which can have positive impacts on nature complementary to their existing farming operations.”

Marcel van Doremaele
Rabobank General Manager, Country Banking Australia

What we offer

- Environmental Plantings Carbon Farming Loans with up to a 1.15% per annum discount applied to the interest rate for the first three years of loan funding.
- Loan funding for EP Project activities (subject to eligibility), such as:
 - Feasibility assessments
 - Site preparation, seedling costs, planting and maintenance
 - Reporting and audit costs
 - Land acquisition for new EP Projects



Potential co-benefits of EP Projects

Each EP Project is unique, but in addition to sequestering carbon through new tree growth and the opportunity to generate ACCUs, co-benefits may include:

- **Animal welfare** outcomes by providing shade and shelter for livestock and weaning protection via new shelterbelts
- **Soil protection** from wind erosion and improved pasture resilience
- **Water quality** improvement in riparian zones and reduced runoff
- **Nature restoration** through increased biodiversity of flora and fauna and expansion of habitat for native species

1 Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU)

2 Also known as Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings ACCU scheme method

3 Mix of trees, shrubs and understorey species native to your local area, or species of mallee eucalypts depending on rainfall averages in your district

4 Previously known as the Emissions Reduction Fund carbon farming method

5 [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's \(DCCEEW\)](#) calculation tool for modelling Australia's greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector

What is an EP Project

An EP Project involves planting and maintaining mixed native vegetation³ on land that has been clear of forest cover for the last five years.

Examples of EP Projects include:

- Creating shelterbelts for pasture protection and/or animal welfare support
- Planting to establish riparian zone buffers
- Plantings on less productive land with block plantings

EP projects are part of the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU scheme)⁴, with abatement estimates calculated using the Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM).⁵

Key considerations and risks

- Site specific factors and risks need to be carefully considered and understood as well as impacts and integration with existing farming operations, including the scale of plantings.
- The [Explainer Guide](#) aims to provide a high-level overview of the general steps and some of the key risk factors however does not factor in specific client level considerations.
- It is recommended to seek independent advice to help assess whether an EP Project fits in with your sustainability and business goals.



“It was about rehydrating the landscape and making it more productive. The trees we have planted will provide shade and shelter for the livestock going forward. For us, the carbon project was really a side benefit.

Warren Pensini, Blackwood Valley Beef, WA

For more information

- Download the [Explainer Guide](#) for key planning and risk factors and where to seek further independent information
- Speak to your local [Rabobank team](#) 1300 30 30 33
- Contact Tim Dellit in Rabobank Sustainability Finance tim.dellit@rabobank.com 0438 463 920