

+ Land Restoration Fund Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Guidelines

1. About the program

In November 2017, the Queensland Government announced the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund (LRF) to support Queensland-based land sector carbon farming projects and create new jobs and opportunities in this growing industry.

The LRF builds on the Australian Government's regulatory framework for generating Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU). ACCUs are tradeable financial products regulated by the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator. The LRF has, as its primary objective, to facilitate a pipeline of *carbon farming projects* that generate ACCUs with environmental, social, economic and First Nations co-benefits.

The LRF has engaged the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) to deliver the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Program (rebate program). The aim of the rebate program is to assist *land holders* with accessing relevant advice from *approved advisers* (listed on the QRIDA website) about undertaking *carbon farming project/s* on their land.

The rebate program has been funded up to \$1 million to support the 2021 LRF Investment Round 2.

This document provides information for land holders on how to apply for the rebate program and requirements when seeking advice from *approved advisers*.

2. Objective

The objective of the rebate program is to assist eligible entities with the cost of accessing *eligible advice* from *approved advisers* about undertaking *carbon farming project/s* on their land.

3. Available funding

- 3.1 The assistance available under this program is a rebate up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 towards the cost of *eligible advice*.
- 3.2 Applicants may only receive one rebate per round
- 3.3 If a rebate has been received in the first round the proposed basis of the *eligible advice* should be significantly different from the earlier submission
- 3.4 The amount of a rebate cannot exceed the cost of *eligible advice* received.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 Eligible entities able to receive a rebate include:

- a) *primary producers*;
- b) *small to medium sized businesses*;
- c) *land holders with a private conservation area*;
- d) *non-profit organisations*
- e) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cwlth); or

f) local governments under the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld).

4.2 To be eligible for a rebate you must also:

- a) be a *land holder* in Queensland;
- b) be an *eligible entity* seeking *eligible advice* on behalf of a *land holder* in Queensland with the written consent of the *land holder*;
- c) have not received and paid for *eligible advice* before applying and receiving a notice of eligibility from QRIDA;
- d) have not previously received a Carbon Farming Advice rebate for advice relating to a substantially similar project activity or location.
- e) ensure the *eligible advice* is provided by an *approved adviser* who:
 - i. is not employed by an entity owned or partially owned by you; and
 - ii. produces a report covering areas within their professional expertise related to the topics outlined in Appendix II.

Note: A list of [approved advisers](#) is on QRIDA's website.

5. Eligible costs

5.1 Eligible costs for a rebate under the program are:

- a) costs for provision of *eligible advice* by *approved advisers* at a cost of up to \$200 per hour excluding GST; and
- b) reasonable travel and accommodation expenses associated with providing *eligible advice*.

5.2 A rebate may cover more than one invoice from one approved adviser but must be the subject of a single claim.

5.3 The level of advice provided should be proportionate with the advice required by an applicant. (For example, if it is apparent an applicant would not be eligible to complete a *carbon farming project* the advice should be limited to this extent).

6. How to apply

6.1 To apply for a rebate complete the online application on QRIDA's website at:

<https://applyonline.qrida.qld.gov.au/auth/login>.

6.2 The program will close to new applications on **31 March 2022** or when available funds have been fully used.

6.3 QRIDA will assess applications in order of receipt.

6.4 Following receipt of a notice of eligibility from QRIDA, you may proceed to access *eligible advice*.

6.5 To receive a rebate payment to your nominated bank account you should submit a claim form, available from QRIDA's website, along with:

- (a) a copy of the paid invoice from the *approved adviser*;
- (b) a copy of the written advice received; and
- (c) a declaration you are satisfied with the advice received (this declaration is included in the claim form).

7. Important Dates

30 July 2021	Applications open
31 March 2022	Application to apply for a rebate close (unless funds have been fully used)
31 May 2022	All claims for rebates must be received by this date.

8. More information

For more information on the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Program, contact QRIDA on Freecall 1800 623 946 or email carbonfundrebate@qrda.qld.gov.au.

9. Definitions

Approved adviser means a person who is listed on QRIDA’s website as an *approved adviser*.

Carbon farming project means projects following methods accredited by the Commonwealth Clean Energy Regulator with the prospect of generating Australian Carbon Credit Units.

To find out which carbon farming methods qualify under the LRF visit the [LRF website](#).

Eligible advice means written advice completed by an *approved adviser* covering areas within their professional expertise related to the topics set out in Appendix II.

Land holder means the following—

- a) if the land is freehold land—the registered owner of the land;
- b) if the land is the subject of a lease registered under the *Land Title Act 1994* (Qld) — the lessee of the land;
- c) if the land is the subject of a lease registered under the *Land Act 1994* (Qld) — the lessee of the land;
- d) if the land is a reserve—the trustee of the reserve;
- e) if a person has occupation rights in relation to the land under a licence or permit—the licensee or permittee.

Non-profit organisation means a charity or other not-for-profit entity that is incorporated under a law of the Commonwealth or a state and either:

- a) registered under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cwth) or the *Collections Act 1966*, or
- b) registered or otherwise authorised to raise funds under a law of another State.

Primary producer means a person who meets the Australian Taxation Office definition of a primary producer and is not operated by a public company.

Private conservation area means land subject to a nature refuge, special wildlife reserve, land for wildlife listing, or coordinated conservation area.

Small to medium sized business means a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company which holds an ABN, is registered for GST, employs fewer than 200 full-time equivalent employees and is not operated by a public company.

Appendix I

Appendix I details further information about Approved Advisers. This is for information only – Approved Advisers should be aware of requirements.

Approved Advisers

To be listed as an *approved adviser* on the QRIDA website, advisers must have completed an LRF Knowledge Centre training course and satisfied eligibility criteria including relevant qualifications and industry experience.

Advisers may be:

- Solicitors
- Accountants
- Carbon Project Developers
- Environmental Consultants
- Agribusiness Advisers

Advice provided under this rebate program is to be specific and tailored to the property in question and the land holder's specific circumstances. *Approved advisers* should only provide advice in their area of expertise.

More information about advice requirements can be found on the [QRIDA website](#) including the information to Apply as an Approved Adviser.

APPENDIX II:

Appendix II details of the advice requirements and what should be contained within the report. This is for information only - Approved Advisers should be aware of requirements.

Advice requirements

Eligible advice from an *approved adviser* must be related to at least one of the following:

1. Details about carbon farming including the regulatory framework and approved methods.
2. Details about the Land Restoration Fund including its investment approach and co-benefits framework.
3. Details related to the specific location of the proposed *carbon farming project* including:
 - a. land tenure restrictions and requirements including eligible interest holder consent;
 - b. likely establishment and ongoing management requirements;
 - c. potential carbon farming methods that might apply and related co-benefits;
 - d. indicative cost benefit analysis; or
 - e. climate change or other environmental considerations impacting the viability of the project.
4. Details that could influence the decision to participate in a *carbon farming project* including:
 - a. legal issues and considerations; or
 - b. financial impacts and considerations.

Approved Adviser report information requirements

Eligible advice from an *approved adviser* must include the following:

1. Reports and invoices should have a property information section that clearly identifies:
 - a. the land title/location details including the number of properties included in an assessment and the name of each property assessed
 - b. the landholder details (name, ABN etc) which should be the same person submitted the rebate invoice
 - c. trust fund or business name linked to the properties/invoices
 - d. type of business/property (cattle, cropping, mixed, etc)
2. Itemised invoices that identify:
 - a. report type
 - b. hours worked
 - c. travel / material costs
3. Reports should be compiled with appropriate headings related to the advice criteria and outline key elements relevant to the advice, this may include:
 - a. desktop assessment
 - b. analysis of methods used in determining advice
 - c. carbon farming and co-benefit considerations
 - d. site surveys
 - e. project costings
 - f. risk considerations, including legal or tax implications of taking on a carbon farming project