



Tasmanian Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program

Tasmanian Guidelines

Updated March 2023

As part of the Accelerating Agriculture 2021 election commitments, the Tasmanian Government announced the creation of the Carbon Farming Advice Pilot Rebate Program. The objective of the Program is to assist Tasmanian primary producers to access carbon farming advice to enter the market. A rebate \$1 for \$1 of up to \$10,000 is available to eligible applicants, this means the program will rebate 50% of an invoice from an Approved Advisor up to \$10,000 (Exclusive of GST) in total. Carbon farming opportunities can be complex to consider. Deciding on the method to use and the advice you need to seek, depends on where you are located and your enterprise mix.

This rebate is available to Tasmanian primary producers for expenditure on eligible advice from approved advisers about undertaking carbon farming project/s on their land. The advice can be used to guide project design in discussion with professional advisers. Tasmanian based primary producers may then consider applying for funding through other programs such as the Tasmanian Landcare Action Grants Program to support practical on-ground works for sustainable agriculture. The Scheme is administered by the Agriculture and Water Strategic Business Unit of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).

Prospective applicants for the rebate should carefully consider the eligibility criteria and the lists of eligible and ineligible activities before submitting an application. The Department welcomes enquiries at any stage in the process.

Duration

As this is a Pilot Program, it will remain open until all funds are expended under the Program.

producer's specific circumstances. This program will rebate 50% of an invoice from an Approved Advisor up to \$10,000 (Exclusive of GST).

Assistance available

The maximum total rebate benefit that can be claimed per primary production business is \$10,000 (exclusive of GST). Within this cap, each eligible applicant may apply for a rebate for eligible advice that is specific and tailored to the property in question and the primary

Eligible applicants – Primary Producer

To be eligible to receive a rebate under the Pilot Program an applicant must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) The applicant is a property owner, share-farmer or lessee based in Tasmania.
- b) The applicant operates a primary production business as a sole trader, partnership, trust or private company operating and located in Tasmania.
- c) The applicant/primary producer:
 - I. earns more than 50 per cent of their gross income from primary production activities under normal seasonal circumstances; OR
 - II. commenced operating the primary production business between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2021 and more than 50 per cent of the applicant's gross income will be derived from the business within three years of the date of the application (considered on a case by case basis).
 - III. Have not received and paid for eligible advice before applying and receiving a notice of eligibility from NRE.
 - IV. Have not previously received advice relating to a substantially similar project activity or location.
 - V. Has applied and been approved under this program.

Applicants operating separate primary production enterprises on separate properties in more than one location and for the purposes of management are managed under a single ABN, can use the rebate of 50% of an Approve Advisors invoice up to the maximum of \$10,000 (excluding GST). Applicants may only receive one rebate and are not eligible to receive multiple grants, regardless of the number of individual or joint applications. For example:

- Applicant A seeks a Rebate of up to \$5,000 in relation to two properties they operate for advice on sequestering carbon in soil by increasing the amount of biomass incorporated into the soil on the property.
- Applicant B submitting a Rebate on behalf of three property owners (including Applicant A) for advice on an aggregated carbon farming project. Applicant A's proportion of expenses will be excluded from the Rebate as they have previously applied for and received a rebate under the program.

Ineligible Applicants

The following applicants are ineligible to apply:

- Carbon farming project developers or advisers
- Any Public Company (as defined under the Corporations Act (Cth) 2001
- Any government agency or local governing body
- Any entity in liquidation or administration
- Any entity classed as a hobby farmer (refer tax ruling 97/11)

Approved Adviser

To ensure professional advice meets the requirements of the Pilot Program, Approved Advisers will be endorsed by NRE (refer to the Approved Adviser Fact Sheet). Advice provided by the Approved Advisors must be specific and tailored to the property in question and the primary producer's specific circumstances. The level of advice should be proportionate to the advice required by the applicant (for example, if it is apparent that an applicant would not be eligible to complete a carbon farming project, the advice should be limited to that extent). Approved Advisers must have appropriate qualifications and experience to provide advice on carbon farming initiatives within their area of expertise.

Eligible/Approved Applicants / Primary Producers will only be paid the rebate on eligible advice provided by an Approved Advisor. The list of approved Advisors is located on the NRE [Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program](#) webpage.

NOTE:

It is the responsibility of Applicants/Primary producers to do their own due diligence on Approved Advisors. NRE TAS does not provide recommendations as to who you should seek advice from.

NRE will not refer Eligible Applicants/Primary Producers to Approved Advisors, it is the responsibility of Approved Advisors to find their own clientele and ensure their eligibility.

Approved Adviser Eligibility:

Advisers can include:

- Solicitors who hold a valid and current practicing certificate;



- Accountants who hold full membership as a Chartered Accountant, certification as a Certified Practising Accountant or hold membership to the Institute of Public Accountants;
- Project Developers (also known as a carbon agent, aggregator or carbon service provider) who work for a company that is a signatory to the Carbon Institute Code of Conduct;
- Environmental Consultant who holds suitable environmental qualifications and relevant industry experience;
- Agribusiness adviser with relevant industry qualifications.

The Approved Adviser must not be employed by an entity owned or partially owned by the applicant.

The Approved Adviser must produce a Report covering areas within their professional expertise related to the eligible activities.

Eligible activities

Eligible advice from the Approved Adviser must be related to at least one of the following:

1. Details about carbon farming including the regulatory framework and approved methods under the Australian Government's voluntary Emissions Reduction Fund as it relates to the relevant property.
2. Details about the Tasmanian Government's Landcare Action Grants with the aim of preparing a project under the Program that relate to on-ground activities that support carbon farming (excluding offset damage to vegetation, or the activity is being undertaken as it is required by law) as it relates to the relevant property.
3. Details relating to the specific location of the proposed carbon farming project including:
 - Land tenure restrictions and requirements including eligible interest holder consent;
 - Likely establishment and ongoing management requirements;

- Potential carbon farming methods that might apply and related co-benefits e.g. could include baseline soil carbon measurement;
 - Indicative cost-benefit analysis;
 - climate change or other environmental considerations impacting the viability of the project.
4. Aggregation projects where a number of smaller landholders 'join together' to create a feasible carbon farming project, noting that only one Rebate for the advice is allowable. (individual primary producers are not eligible to receive multiple rebates under the Pilot Program).
 5. Details that could influence the decision to participate in a carbon farming project including:
 - Legal issues and considerations; or
 - Financial impacts and considerations.

Approved Adviser report information requirements:

Eligible advice from an Approved Adviser must meet the following requirements:

1. Reports and invoices must include a property information section that clearly identifies:
 - The land title/location details including the number of properties included in an assessment and the name of each property assessed
 - the land holder details (name, ABN etc.), which should be the same person submitting the rebate invoice
 - trust fund or business names linked to the properties/ invoices
 - type of business/property (for example: cattle, cropping, mixed, etc.).
2. Provision of an itemised invoice/s that identify:
 - report type
 - hours worked and travel / material costs (excluding accommodation and meals).
3. Reports should be compiled with appropriate headings related to the advice criteria and



outline key elements relevant to the advice, this may include:

- desktop assessment
- analysis of methods used in determining advice
- carbon farming and co-benefit considerations
- site surveys
- project costings
- risk considerations, including legal or tax implications of taking on a carbon farming project.

Ineligible activities

The rebate does not apply to:

- Services that have previously been advertised by an Approved Adviser for free (such as a 'whole of farm' carbon audit).
- Any baseline soil carbon sampling costs that have previously been reimbursed under an Australian Government program;
- Project activity or advice that has previously been reimbursed under an Australian Government's biodiversity Carbon + Diversity Pilot through NRM North;
- Projects or advice that are involved in savanna fire management or that seek to avoid methane emissions through feeding dietary additives or providing feed supplements all year round;
- Projects or advice that are not aligned to the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund or activities that have been undertaken under these Australian Government listed Programs that precludes an applicant from participating in the Emissions Reduction Fund.

Applications – how to apply

Applicant/Primary Producer

Applications under this Scheme must be made in the form requested using the designated application form.

For Primary Producers this is the: *Program application for primary producer form*, this form is available at: [Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](https://www.nre.tas.gov.au/carbon-farming-advice-rebate-pilot-program)

To be eligible under this program this application must be made and approved prior to advice being sought from Approved Advisors.

Applications will be assessed in order of receipt, except where they are incomplete. Incomplete applications will be assessed when the applicant has supplied all necessary information.

Following receipt of a notice of eligibility by NRE, the applicant may proceed to access eligible advice. Following receipt of advice, the applicant then submits the Adviser Report and the copy of the paid invoice for rebate assessment.

Applicant/Approved Advisor

Applications under the Scheme must be made in the form requested using the designated application form.

For Approved Advisor this is the: *Program application for approved adviser form*, this form is available at: [Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](https://www.nre.tas.gov.au/carbon-farming-advice-rebate-pilot-program)

To be eligible under this program this application must be made and approved prior to advice being given.

Applicants will be notified in writing of their approval and the relevant details posted on the NRE [Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program](https://www.nre.tas.gov.au/carbon-farming-advice-rebate-pilot-program) webpage. Once approval has been given the now approved advisor may engage with potential or Approve Applicants/Primary Producers.

Applications can be submitted by email or post as follows:

By email: farmpoint@nr.tas.gov.au

By post: Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Scheme FarmPoint – NRE PO Box 46 Kings Meadows TAS 7249

Enquiries Please direct enquiries concerning Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program to: FarmPoint - NRE Phone: 1300 292 292 Email: farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au

Assessment

Applications will be assessed by the Department against the eligibility criteria for the Scheme. The Department may request further information from



the applicant, or any business or individual engaged by the applicant, to assist in assessing the application and to verify any information provided in the application. Failure to provide such information may result in the application being rejected.

If an application is successful, the amount of the rebate (excluding GST) will be paid to the applicant's nominated bank account.

Successful applicants may be subject to audit by the Department or its agents in order to verify compliance with the Scheme Guidelines. This may include an inspection of relevant records and/or the infrastructure installed on the applicant's property.

If an application is unsuccessful, the applicant will be notified of the decision and provided with an opportunity to request a review of the decision.

Other important information

The Department reserves the right to revise these guidelines at any time. Revised guidelines will be clearly marked and published online on the same web page as the guidelines they replace. Each application will be assessed against the guidelines current at the time the application is received by the Department.

The Department may reject an application if the applicant is found to be in breach of any other funding, grant or loan agreement with the Tasmanian Government, or withhold payment of the rebate until the breach is rectified to the satisfaction of the Department.

