

The Scheme

As part of the 2021 election commitments, the Tasmanian Government announced the creation of the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program. The objective of the Program is to assist Tasmanian primary producers to access carbon farming advice to enter the market.

Carbon farming opportunities can be complex to consider. Deciding on the method to use and the advice the primary producer need to seek, depends on their enterprise mix. The objective of the *Approved Advisers* under the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program is to provide primary producers relevant advice within the Adviser's area of expertise about undertaking carbon farming projects.

Primary producers are encouraged to speak to *Approved Advisers* to assess whether carbon farming is suitable for their land and business as well as consider what Grant opportunities may be available to assist them with on-ground activities.

The Scheme is administered by the Agriculture and Water Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

This fact sheet provides information about how to be an *Approved Adviser* under the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program.

Who is an *Approved Adviser* under the Pilot Program?

An *Approved Adviser* under the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program is a professional adviser who can assist primary producers with carbon farming advice.

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.

Approved Advisers will be assessed by DPIPWE to ensure professional advice meets the requirements of the Pilot Program.

How do you become an *Approved Adviser*?

Applications to become an *Approved Adviser* are sought from those who hold the relevant skills, qualifications and experience. DPIPWE will not expect or endorse *Approved Advisers* to provide advice outside their area of expertise. *Approved Advisers* are required to provide information to DPIPWE describing their experience and industry specialisation.

Approved Advisers will be selected by DPIPWE in line with recommendations from the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Program Steering Committee.

What information do you need to provide?

You will be required to demonstrate your skill through providing evidence of:

- (a) Commentary on experience and industry specialisation; and
- (b) Up to date resume detailing experience; and
- (c) Evidence of adequate insurance – Public Liability (\$10 million) and Professional Indemnity Insurance (\$2million) cover to be held by a relevant professional organisation; and
- (d) Confirmation that the advice you will be providing has not been previously provided by you for free; and
- (e) Confirmation of the category for the criteria of adviser below

Solicitor:

- (a) Hold a valid and current practicing certificate

Accountant:

- (a) Full membership as a Chartered Accountant;
- (b) Certification as a Certified Practising Accountant; or
- (c) Membership to the Institute of Public Accountants

Project Developer (also known as a carbon agent, aggregator or carbon service provider):

- (a) Work for a company that is a signatory to the Carbon Market Institute's Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct

Environmental Consultant:

- (a) Environmental qualification and relevant industry experience

Agribusiness Adviser:

- (a) Relevant industry qualification

What is the assessment process?

The process is summarised below:

1. Lodge your information with DPIPWE FarmPoint team.
2. DPIPWE FarmPoint team will provide an acknowledgement receipt.
3. The Project Manager will review the information and make a recommendation for the decision of the application to the Steering Committee Chair.
4. DPIPWE Steering Committee chair will determine a successful application.
5. DPIPWE FarmPoint will advise the applicant of the decision.
6. Applicant will accept invitation to be an *Approved Adviser* by sending email to farmpoint@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au
7. A profile for the applicant as an *Approved Adviser* will be created.
8. DPIPWE FarmPoint will update the *Approved Adviser* list and place the profile on the DPIPWE website

Are there any fees to apply?

No. There are no costs to apply for, or be registered as, an *Approved Adviser*.

There will be no payment between DPIPWE and the *Approved Adviser*.

Is there a review process if you are not accepted as an *Approved Adviser*?

Yes. You can write to the DPIPWE Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program Steering Committee chair via farmpoint@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

Can an *Approved Adviser* status be suspended or cancelled?

Yes. DPIPWE will advise the *Approved Adviser*, in writing, where a decision has been taken to suspend or cancel status as an *Approved Adviser*. This letter will detail the reasons and justification which informed this decision.

Cancellation or suspension of the *Approved Adviser* may be based on failure to continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

The *Approved Adviser* will be provided the opportunity to make written representation as to why their *Approved Adviser* status should not be suspended or cancelled and should seek to discuss the decision in the first instance with DPIPWE. Should the *Approved Adviser* wish to do so, a request for an internal review of the decision can be made.

What are Eligible activities?

Refer to the Carbon Farming Rebate Pilot Program Guidelines for Applicants to determine what is eligible advice and the information and Report requirements for the *Approved Adviser*.

Applications – how to apply?

To be considered as an *Approved Adviser* for the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot, an applicant must:

- (a) lodge a completed application form available from DPIPWE's website; and
- (b) if your application is successful, accept DPIPWE's invitation to be an *Approved Adviser* and be listed on the DPIPWE website.

Applications can be submitted by email or post as follows:

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

By post: Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program
FarmPoint – DPIPWE
PO Box 46
Kings Meadows TAS 7249

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

Enquiries

Please direct enquiries concerning Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program to:

FarmPoint - DPIPWE

Phone: **1300 292 292**

Email: farmpoint@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

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.