



March
2021

Agriculture Stewardship package

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot



Australia's agriculture industry depends on a biodiverse and well-managed natural resource base.

The \$34 million Agriculture Stewardship package aims to incentivise adoption of improved on-farm land management practices and develop a mechanism where farmers are rewarded for their efforts in delivering biodiversity and sustainability services that benefit their farms and the broader community.

SCENARIO

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot payments

Jane and Joe are (hypothetical) beef farmers who own 500 hectares. They decide to plant 10 per cent, or 50ha, of the property into shelterbelts and block plantings, incorporating some of the old trees already on the farm. The plantings are designed to boost productivity by providing shelter for their cattle and addressing erosion issues in gullies and hillsides. Jane and Joe continue to farm beef on the remaining 90 per cent of their farm.

Jane and Joe will receive payments from the Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot for the first three years of the project and carbon credits for at least 25 years, which can be sold to the Australian Government under the Emissions Reduction Fund or to private buyers. If the plantings are well managed, the profit from the plantings will be greater than what Jane and Joe would have otherwise earned from the land. They should also see an increase in beef production from the improvement in shelter. Overall, the plantings should boost the returns from their farm and provide them with improved drought resilience.

Jane and Joe have contributed to making their community more sustainable – both from a climate and biodiversity perspective – while increasing and diversifying their farm income.



Be Informed

For more information, visit our website at agriculture.gov.au/agriculturestewardship. Enquiries about the program can be directed to agstewardship@awe.gov.au or the department's contact number at **1800 900 090**.



For more information
awe.gov.au