# Agriculture Stewardship Package

Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot

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

The $34 million Agricultural 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.

The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot will trial a market based mechanism to reward farmers for increasing biodiversity.

Farmers who undertake plantings for carbon can receive additional payments for maximising the biodiversity benefits from these plantings by:

* planting a mix of species
* managing and looking after vegetation.

Plantings can also benefit farmers by:

* providing shelter for animals
* protecting dams and waterways
* reducing erosion.

Payment for biodiversity and other environmental services can supplement traditional farm income.

## Pilot regions

The Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot is seeking applications for projects to fund from 2021 to 2023.

The Pilot will run in 6 Natural Resource Management Regions to test the biodiversity protocols.

* Burnett-Mary in Queensland
* Central West in New South Wales
* North Central in Victoria
* NRM North in Tasmania
* Eyre Peninsula in South Australia
* South West in Western Australia

## Rewards for biodiversity outcomes

The pilot will trial a market based mechanism to reward biodiversity outcomes in combination with carbon planting projects under the Emissions Reduction Fund.

Participating farmers will:

* receive payments for increasing biodiversity
* establish new plantings in line with biodiversity protocol
* report biodiversity outcomes and allow monitoring and verification
* register the new plantings under the Emissions Reduction Fund and meet their requirements
* manage and maintain plantings for at least 25 years.

## 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**.