



# NSW Natural Capital Programs

The NSW Government recognises there are growing demands on and from within the primary industries sector to implement sustainable production processes and land management techniques.

Investors, banks, insurers, consumers and companies within the primary production supply chain are increasingly factoring sustainability into their investment and purchasing decisions.

In response, the NSW Government is running a suite of voluntary programs to assist the primary industries sector to undertake sustainable actions to enable improved productivity, drought and climatic resilience, regenerate local landscapes, and facilitate new/diversified income streams.

## NSW Government natural capital programs for farmers and primary industry participants

We recognise that a one-size-fits-all approach is not feasible and will seek to support the needs of different farming systems.

These programs are designed to provide participants with options to support their business goals and deliver environmental benefits. These include the:

- Sustainable Farming Program – \$206 million over 10 years to 2032
- Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program – \$125 million over 8 years to 2030
- Private Land Conservation Program – \$70 million annually
- Biodiversity Credit Supply Program – \$106 million over 3 years to 2025.

## Sustainable Farming Program

For landholders interested in improving their farm profitability, the Sustainable Farming Program (SFP) offers government-backed certification for farms that are implementing sustainable land-based actions, including 'carbon and nature-positive farming practices'.

Certification is intended to unlock financial benefits, such as:

- favourable financing with banks and the potential for reduced insurance premiums
- accessing new investment opportunities from sustainable investors
- generating premium pricing for their products.

Participation in the Program provides financial payments from the NSW Government for signing up, achieving and maintaining certification.

This Program is currently being developed. Consultation on this program will occur in 2022, with roll out in early 2023.

Visit the [Sustainable Farming Program webpage](#) for more information or to register your interest in participating.

## **Primary Industries Productivity and Abatement Program (PIPAP)**

This program is specifically designed to assist farmers and other landholders to undertake activities that reduce their carbon emissions or increase carbon sequestration via soil health enhancement, livestock and vegetation management.

It will also build participation in carbon markets to help farmers get an economic benefit from their carbon actions. The program will deliver:

- datasets, methods, metrics, frameworks and tools for efficient assessment and demonstration of carbon outcomes and co-benefits
- new carbon farming methodologies, including to support co-benefits such as biodiversity, cultural and social outcomes
- capacity building to support farmers to achieve whole of farm carbon measurement and management, and to develop carbon farming projects which can enable the creation of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)
- analysis and documentation of productivity benefits of carbon farming
- partnerships across the land sector and primary production supply chain.

The PIPAP package will offer farmers and other land holders the ability to generate alternate income streams through carbon markets.

To receive updates, including funding round announcements, register your details on the [PIPAP webpage](#).

## **Private Land Conservation Program**

Landholders with native vegetation and an interest in protecting and managing biodiversity can enter into an agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) covering all or part of their property.

Protecting and managing biodiversity on private land can result in measurable benefits to production by supporting healthy soil and healthy landscapes. It also creates important climate and habitat refugia for native species.

The BCT partners with landholders to enhance and protect biodiversity through formal agreements, funding and grants. Landholders may be eligible for agreements with annual management payments to diversify their income by helping with the costs of agreed management actions.

BCT agreements are created under NSW legislation, are registered on the land title and can be in-perpetuity or termed.

Landholders with BCT agreements receive ongoing technical support and networking opportunities among the 2,200 existing landholders with agreements in all regions of New South Wales. Landholders may also be eligible for rate and tax concessions.

For more information on the different types of land conservation agreements, visit the [BCT website](#)

## Biodiversity Credit Supply Program

Generating and selling biodiversity credits enables landholders to get paid for biodiversity stewardship to manage weeds, pests and fire, and improve local ecology. Landholders can find out if they have in-demand biodiversity credits and access a biodiversity assessment at no upfront cost through the Credits Supply Taskforce.

Biodiversity credits can be sold through the NSW biodiversity market. The demand for biodiversity credits is expanding rapidly due to the need for more housing, renewable energy and economic development. These projects need to find the right types of biodiversity credits to balance their impact. The Biodiversity Credits Supply Fund will also be buying credits to support market development and provide an easy way for landholders to sell credits.

Credit sales provide funding for long-term stewardship. With credit prices set by the market, a 100-hectare site could generate the credits to provide management payments of \$20,000 to \$50,000 per year. Landholders in New South Wales are now receiving \$10 million in payments for stewardship each year. This helps landholders with future-proofing their properties and supports productivity and diversification.

Find out more through a Stewardship Expression of Interest to the Credits Supply Taskforce.