

Avoided Clearing of Native Regrowth (ACNR) Method Variation

Summary table of main differences between existing ACNR method and proposed improved ACNR method

July 2024

Issue	Existing ACNR	Proposed improved ACNR
Land eligibility	<p>The land must have been subject to at least two past clearing events.</p> <p>Project must be registered within a 7-year window based on the age of the forest at the last clearing event.</p>	<p>Eligible lands will be defined as areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>that have previously been subject to human-induced conversion of native forest to a non-forest land use;</i> • <i>that have native forest cover at the date of the application for project registration;</i> • <i>that have not been cleared of native vegetation within 7 years of the date of the application for project registration;</i> • <i>that were comprehensively cleared for agricultural purposes 8 to 25 years prior to the date of the application for project registration;</i> • <i>where the landholder has the unrestricted legal freedom to comprehensively re-clear the land for agricultural purposes; and</i> • <i>where there is limited risk of land degradation from re-clearing (land with slope <10%).</i>
Native forest cover	<p>‘Native forest cover’ is defined as:</p> <p><i>[land] dominated by trees that:</i></p> <p><i>(a) are located within their natural range; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) have attained a crown cover of at least 20% of the area of land; and</i></p>	<p>‘Native forest cover’ will be defined as:</p> <p><i>land dominated by trees that:</i></p> <p><i>(i) are located within their natural range;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) have not been planted;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) have attained a crown cover of at least 20% of the area of land, when defined at [100 or 625] m² scale; and</i></p>

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	<p><i>(c) have reached a height of at least 2 metres.</i></p> <p>'Forest' is defined as:</p> <p><i>land of a minimum area of 0.2 of a hectare on which trees:</i></p> <p><i>(a) have attained, or have the potential to attain, a crown cover of at least 20% across the area of land; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) have reached, or have the potential to reach, a height of at least 2 metres.</i></p>	<p><i>(iv) have reached a height of at least 2 metres.</i></p> <p>'Forest' will be defined as:</p> <p><i>land, defined at [100 or 625] m² scale, on which trees:</i></p> <p><i>(a) have attained, or have the potential to attain, a crown cover of at least 20% across the area of land; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) have reached, or have the potential to reach, a height of at least 2 metres.</i></p>
<p>Clearing events and comprehensive clearing</p>	<p>For the purposes of eligibility and the calculation of abatement, 'clearing events' are defined as:</p> <p><i>the removal of forest cover from land through the destruction of trees or saplings, or both, by mechanical or chemical means, whether or not accompanied by use of fire.</i></p>	<p>'Comprehensive clearing' will be defined as:</p> <p><i>the comprehensive removal of trees by mechanical or chemical means from at least 90% of the land, defined at [100 or 625] m² scale, other than small trees (i.e. less than ~5 cm diameter at breast height) that survive the clearing event by virtue of their size.</i></p>
<p>Measurement</p>	<p>Stocks and emissions in baseline and project scenarios modelled using the Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM).</p>	<p>Stocks and emissions in baseline and project scenarios modelled using FullCAM.</p> <p>Option for projects to measure above-ground biomass to recalibrate FullCAM by changing <i>M</i> (maximum above-ground biomass in undisturbed native vegetation).</p> <p>Projects that opt for direct measurement will be required to conduct inventories at project commencement and then again in years 5 and 10.</p>

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<p>Windrow burns in baseline scenario</p>	<p>Windrow burns are assumed to always occur in the baseline scenario after clearing events. This reduces carbon stocks in the baseline scenario, increasing credited net abatement.</p>	<p>Windrow burns will only be allowed to be modelled in the baseline scenario where the proponent can demonstrate a windrow burn was undertaken after the last clearing event.</p> <p>NB: Similar to the approach used in the <i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) (Native Forest from Managed Regrowth) Methodology Determination 2013</i> (expired on 31 March 2024).</p>
<p>Permanence</p>	<p>Two options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 years: crediting subject to 5% risk of reversal discount & 20% permanence period discount. • 100 years: crediting subject to 5% risk of reversal discount only. 	<p>Two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 years: crediting subject to 5% risk of reversal discount & low permanence period discount (if any). • 100 years: crediting subject to 5% risk of reversal discount only. <p>There will be no option for projects to have a 25-year permanence period.</p>
<p>Net abatement amount and crediting</p>	<p>Total net abatement calculated as the difference between the project carbon stocks at the end of the crediting period and the long-term (100-year) average baseline carbon stocks, minus CH₄ and N₂O emissions from biomass burning. The credits representing this abatement are allocated at the end of each reporting period. The net abatement amount for the first reporting period is calculated as the difference between the project carbon stocks at that time and the long-term average baseline carbon stocks, minus CH₄ and N₂O emissions from biomass burning. In subsequent reporting periods, the net abatement amount is calculated as the stock change</p>	<p>Two approaches: Approach A (existing ACNR approach) and Approach B (new ACNR approach).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach A (existing ACNR approach): total net abatement calculated as the difference between the project carbon stocks at the end of the crediting period and the long-term (100-year) average baseline carbon stocks, minus CH₄ and N₂O emissions from biomass burning. The credits representing this abatement are allocated at the end of each reporting period. The net abatement amount for the first reporting period is calculated as the difference between the project carbon stocks at that time and the long-term average baseline carbon stocks, minus CH₄ and N₂O emissions from biomass burning. In subsequent reporting periods, the net abatement amount is calculated as the stock change since the end of the last period, minus CH₄ and N₂O emissions from biomass burning. • Approach B (new ACNR approach): total net abatement calculated as the difference between the modelled project carbon stocks at the end of the 25th year after the first baseline clearing event and the long-term (100-year) average baseline carbon stocks. The ACCUs reflecting this abatement are

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	<p>since the end of the last period, minus CH₄ and N₂O emissions from biomass burning.</p>	<p>allocated in roughly equal instalments over the first 10 years of the project. Where projects opt for direct measurement, a 5% buffer will be held back until year 11 pending the outcomes of the third measurement inventory.</p> <p>Projects with 50-year permanence periods will be required to use Approach A (existing ACNR approach).</p> <p>Projects with 100-year permanence periods will be able to use either Approach A or Approach B (new ACNR approach).</p> <p>NB: This approach draws on the approach used for ex-plantation projects under the <i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Plantation Forestry) Methodology Determination 2022</i> (Plantation Method).</p>
<p>Natural disturbances</p>	<p>The baseline scenario does not include the carbon stock changes and emissions associated with natural disturbances (e.g. wildfires) but they are required to be modelled in the project scenario.</p>	<p>For projects with 50-year permanence periods, the carbon stock changes and emissions associated with natural disturbances must be included in both the baseline and project scenarios as and when they occur.</p> <p>NB: This approach is used for conversion projects under the <i>Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Plantation Forestry) Methodology Determination 2022</i> (Plantation Method).</p> <p>For projects with 100-year permanence periods, the carbon stock changes and emissions associated with natural disturbances are excluded from both the baseline and project scenarios. This is based on the premise that any reductions in biomass carbon stocks associated with natural disturbances are likely to be replenished over the permanence period, and the associated CH₄ and N₂O emissions are likely to be relatively small compared to the total sequestration generated by the projects.</p>