# Request to be considered as an alternative assurance low-risk plantation forestry 2022 project

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| FORM |
| CER-ACCU-003 |
| V1.0 04/09/2024 |

under s73(7)(d) of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015

# Purpose of this form

If your project is covered by the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Plantation Forestry) Methodology Determination 2022* (the plantation forestry 2022 method), it may be eligible to be an alternative assurance project.

As an alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry project, generally your project will require only one initial audit and the Clean Energy Regulator will use geospatial tools, among other measures, to verify compliance with legislative requirements.

* If your project meets the eligibility criteria to be an alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry project and you want to opt-in for it to be an alternative assurance project, you can submit this form when applying to register your project as an eligible offsets project, in accordance with s13(1)(r) of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015 (CFI Rule).
* If your project has been already registered as an eligible offsets project under the plantation forestry 2022 method, and it meets the eligibility criteria to be an alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry project, you can submit this form to opt-in for your project to be an alternative assurance project, as per s73(5)(aa) of the CFI Rule.

Eligibility

For a plantation forestry 2022 method project to be eligible as an alternative assurance project, the project must be:

* less than 200 hectares for the anticipated and reported carbon estimation areas
* subject to geospatial tool monitoring by the Clean Energy Regulator, such as the use of satellite imagery to monitor the progress of the project
* a plantation forestry project defined in the plantation forestry 2022 method covered by either or both Schedule 1 (establishing new plantation forests) and Schedule 2 (converting short-rotation plantation forests to long-rotation plantation forests).

The project proponent would also need to meet any conditions related to the operation, monitoring or reporting for the project that may be specified under the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative – Audit Thresholds) Instrument 2015* (the Audit thresholds instrument). Currently, no such conditions are specified in the Audit thresholds instrument.

Projects involving the avoided conversion of an existing or recently harvested plantation, or the transition of a plantation forest to a permanent forest, are not eligible to be an alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry project.

If at any stage the project ceases to satisfy the eligibility criteria for being a low-risk plantation forestry project, it will no longer be eligible to remain as an alternative assurance project. If this happens, we may require additional audits to be undertaken, in-line with the audit requirements for a standard plantation forestry project.

# Instructions for completing this form

You must complete and submit:

* **Part A:** Applicant details
* **Part B:** Project details
* **Part C:** Declaration

You can choose to complete this form by:

* printing the form and filling it in by hand
* saving the form and filling in an electronic copy.

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| --- | --- |
| Pen colours | Please use a **black** or **blue** pen to write on the form. |
| Check boxes | Mark boxes like this £ with a ✔ or ✘. When an instruction asks you to ‘tick’ the box, you can still use either ✔ or ✘. |
| Go to | Where you see an instruction like this - **£** Go to **question 5** - mark the relevant box with a ✔ or ✘and then skip to the question number shown. You do not need to answer the question(s) in between.  Where an instruction has a black double arrow (8), go to the next indicated part/section. Where an instruction has a black single arrow (4), go to the next question. Where an instruction has a black single arrow pointing down (6), fill in the field(s) directly below. |
| Mandatory questions | All fields in a question are mandatory and must be completed. |
| 4 | This symbol indicates an instruction on what to do next. |
| i | This symbol indicates additional useful guidance to filling in the adjacent field or section. |
| 4 | This symbol advises that more than one entry may be required for the section and therefore you may need to photocopy or print the section or fill in a duplicate section. |
| ë | This symbol advises that additional documentation to support a claim may need to be attached to the application. |
| Duplex printing | This form is designed to be duplex printed to save on paper. All new sections start on the right-hand side of a page spread. |

Help filling in this form

If you require assistance or have any questions regarding this application process, please contact us on 1300 553 542 or email [enquiries@cer.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cer.gov.au).

Submitting this form

Applicants seeking to register a new project under the plantation forestry 2022 method may upload this form with their registration application in [Online Services](https://onlineservices.cer.gov.au/).

Proponents/appointed nominees of existing projects under the plantation forestry 2022 method can submit this request via email to [CER-ERFPlantingsPlantations@cer.gov.au](mailto:CER-ERFPlantingsPlantations@cer.gov.au).

A copy of this form must be kept for your records.

Part A: Applicant details

Complete this part to identify either the:

* proposed project proponent or appointed nominee making an application to register a new project under the plantation forestry 2022 method
* project proponent or appointed nominee of an existing project registered under the plantation forestry 2022 method.

1. Applicant details (required)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant name |  | | | | | | | |
| Date of birth (individual only) |  | | | | | | | |
| Organisation identifier | ABN |  | ACN |  | ARBN |  | ICN |  |
|  | | | | | | | |

Part B: Project details

1. Project details (required)

* For new projects, provide the ‘register a project’ application number found in Online Services. For existing projects, provide the Project ID issued to the project (i.e. ERFxxxxxx).

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| **Project or application number** |  |
| **Project name** |  |

1. Project eligibility (required)

* Projects must involve either the establishment of new plantation forests, the conversion of short-rotation plantation forests to long-rotation plantation forests, or both these activities.

Projects involving the avoided conversion of an existing or recently harvested plantation, or the transition of a plantation forest to a permanent forest, are not eligible to be an alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry project.

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| The project involves (tick all that apply): | |
|  | The establishment of new plantation forests, as covered under paragraph 8(1)(a) of the plantation forestry 2022 method |
|  | The conversion of short-rotation plantation forests to long-rotation plantation forests, as covered under paragraph 8(1)(b) of the plantation forestry 2022 method |

Part C: Declaration

This part must be signed by:

* the proposed project proponent or appointed nominee applying to register a new eligible offsets project, or
* the project proponent or appointed nominee of an existing project that meets the criteria for an alternative assurance, low risk plantation forestry project.

This part may also be signed on behalf of the proponent/nominee by a person duly authorised to bind them.

* Where a signatory is signing on behalf of a proposed project proponent, project proponent or appointed nominee, evidence of the authority of the signatory to sign the declaration on their behalf must be attached to the form at the time of submission.

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| By checking each box below, I confirm the following in relation to the project identified in Part B: | |
|  | I am requesting this project to be an alternative assurance project, according to the meaning given in subsection 73(7) of [the CFI Rule](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021C01069) 2015. |
|  | The anticipated and reported carbon estimation area for the project is not greater than 200 hectares. |
|  | I understand that if the project does not meet, or ceases to meet, eligibility criteria as a low-risk plantation forestry project, it will not be eligible as an alternative assurance project and further scheduled audits carried out under the plantation forestry 2022 method will apply. |
|  | I understand the Clean Energy Regulator undertakes geospatial monitoring of alternative assurance projects that meet the eligibility criteria for alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry projects, and agree for such monitoring to occur in respect of this project. |

By signing below, the signatory:

* declares that the information supplied in this form is true and correct and that they are authorised to make this request on behalf of the applicant named in Part A of this form
* acknowledges that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence and carries penalties under the *Criminal* *Code* *Act* *1995*.

**Signed by or on behalf of:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project proponent/** **appointed nominee name** |  |

**By:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Signatory name |  |
| Signature |  |
| Position |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Email address |  |
| Signature date |  |

Assessment of the application

For new projects under the plantation forestry 2022 method, the information in this form will be assessed as part of your declaration of an eligible offsets project application. Your project will be approved as an alternative assurance project with reduced audit requirements if your:

* application meets the requirements for an eligible offsets project
* project meets the eligibility criteria for being an alternative assurance, low-risk plantation forestry project.

The reduced audit requirement will be recorded in the audit schedule accompanying the copy of the project declaration.

For existing projects under the plantation forestry 2022 method, the information in this form will determine if we vary the audit schedule of the project, in accordance with section 73(5)(aa). You will be informed of this decision by email.

Publishing of information

Information about registered projects is included in the [ACCU Scheme project register](https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/accu-project-and-contract-register?view=Projects) in accordance with sections 167 and 168 of the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011*.

Protection of information

The Clean Energy Regulator is bound by the secrecy provisions in Part 3 of the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* and by the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Privacy statement

'Personal information', as defined in the *Privacy Act 1988*, means any information from which a person’s identity is apparent or can be reasonably ascertained.

Personal information collected in relation to this application will be used for the purpose of assessing the application, auditing compliance, enforcement of relevant laws and regulations and for related purposes. The collection of personal information is authorised by the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* and other relevant Act(s).

Disclosure of information

The Clean Energy Regulator and authorised staff are only able to disclose information relating to the affairs of a person (including personal information) collected in relation to this application in accordance with the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* or as otherwise required by law.

Part 3 of the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* prevents disclosure of relevant information except in circumstances set out in that Part. Those circumstances include:

* disclosure for the purposes of a climate change law
* disclosure to the Minister
* disclosure of summaries or statistics if those summaries or statistics are not likely to enable the identification of a person
* disclosure to certain bodies where the Chair of the Clean Energy Regulator is satisfied that disclosure will assist those bodies in the performance of their functions or powers, including the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
* disclosure for the purposes of enforcement of the criminal law, enforcement of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty or for protection of the public revenue, if the Chair of the Clean Energy Regulator is satisfied that disclosure is reasonably necessary for such purpose.

Accessibility disclaimer

Please contact us to obtain an alternative version if you are having difficulty using this form, or you have specific accessibility needs. Please call **1300 553 542** or email the name of the form and your needs to [enquiries@cer.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cer.gov.au)

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