

Consultation paper: Improvements to the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme project and contract register

About this consultation

We will be undertaking work to improve the content and presentation of the [ACCU scheme project and contract register](#)¹ in 2026.

This work includes migrating the register to [Data Services](#)², changing to the data structure, and updating the way we present information in the register. This will help us ensure that the register best supports scheme transparency and that scheme data is accessible and useful for scheme stakeholders.

We are seeking input from key data users to inform the development of this work. This will ensure the improved register meets the needs of data users.

We will also use feedback from this consultation to inform the development of other scheme registers we publish, including the [Biodiversity Market Register](#)³ and the [Guarantee of Origin Register](#)⁴.

About the register

Legislative context

We are required under section 167 of the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* (CFI Act) to maintain the register on our website.

Our scheme legislation outlines the information that we must publish on the register, with the relevant provisions being contained in section 168 of the CFI Act and section 93A of the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015* (CFI Rule). Excerpts from the legislation relating to the project register are provided in [Attachment A](#), and excerpts relating to the contract register are provided in [Attachment B](#).

Our legislation restricts the information that we can publish about ACCU Scheme projects. The secrecy provisions at Part 3 of the *Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011* treat all information provided to us as protected

¹ <https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/accu-project-and-contract-register>

² <https://data.cer.gov.au/>

³ <https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/biodiversity-market-register>

⁴ <https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/guarantee-origin-register>

information. We can only publish protected information under the circumstances provided for in the Act, including publishing information on the register as provided for in the scheme legislation.

Current register data structure

The register is currently available on our website in tabular form in Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) and comma separated values (.csv) file formats. Supporting materials are available as separate files, including:

- project area files (.kml)
- carbon estimation area files (.shp)
- supplementary documents submitted by project proponents (.pdf).

We are considering changes to the format the register is published in, with these proposed changes discussed in this consultation paper.

Current frequency of register updates

While the register was previously published on a weekly basis, the register is currently updated on a monthly cycle. The change in publication frequency was due to:

- significant growth in the number of declared ACCU Scheme projects
- increased information publication requirements following amendments to the CFI Rule.

Together, these factors significantly increased the volume and complexity of information required to prepare and publish the register. Publishing the register on a monthly cycle allows us maintain data quality assurance processes. We are not proposing any changes to the register publication frequency.

Related data products

We also provide a range of related data products to support use and analysis of the register, including:

- individual project records, which provide relevant, user-friendly information about each ACCU Scheme project. These records are presented in a variety of tabular, graphical and geospatial formats
- a table of changes since the last register update, which outlines the projects registered and revoked, and ACCUs issued and relinquished since the last update of the register
- a project map, detailing the location of projects by postcode including relevant attributes.

The individual project records, table of changes since the last register update, and the project map are published on the [ACCU project and contract register](https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/accu-project-and-contract-register)⁵. These related products will continue to be made available as we make improvements to the register.

We also publish a variety of case studies and analyses that provide in-depth details of project and contract register data for a specific purpose This includes the [Quarterly Carbon Market Report](https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/quarterly-carbon-market-reports)⁶ and ad-hoc [case studies regarding the project register](https://cer.gov.au/schemes/australian-carbon-credit-unit-scheme/managing-risk-and-integrity-accu-scheme#transparency-changes-for-the-accu-scheme)⁷.

⁵ <https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/accu-project-and-contract-register>

⁶ <https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/quarterly-carbon-market-reports>

⁷ <https://cer.gov.au/schemes/australian-carbon-credit-unit-scheme/managing-risk-and-integrity-accu-scheme#transparency-changes-for-the-accu-scheme>

Areas for consultation

Changing the register data structure

We plan to transition the current flat file data structure to a relational data model.

Currently, the information required to be published for each ACCU Scheme project is contained in a single row in the current register output.

We propose to use a series of related data tables to contain the register, with these tables published with each register update. Entries in the related data tables will be associated with projects and contracts through unique identifiers. This model will enable records in the register to be related to other records more easily.

For example, a project details table would contain a complete list of ACCU Scheme projects. Each project in the table would have a Project ID alongside other attributes about the project (such as the project status and name). A separate locations table will provide location details for projects, such as land title information. Because both tables will contain the Project ID, the location records for a given project (in the locations table) can be matched with the project details (in the project details table).

The proposed relational data model for the project register is provided in [Attachment C](#).

While the proposed data structure supports increased opportunities for analysis, we anticipate that users may require increased data literacy to consume the data and conduct analysis.

Consultation questions

- Will the proposed new format meet your needs? If not, what challenges do you expect?
- Should we continue to publish the current flat file in addition to the relational data model?
- Will you need support materials to support your interpretation and analysis of the proposed data model? If yes, what materials would you need and why?
- Would additional functionality in our web view of the register support your use of the published data? If so, what functionality would you find useful?
- What supplementary products or tools do you use to support your use of our data?

Changing the format of geospatial records

We propose changing the format used to provide geospatial records for area-based projects.

Currently, we provide project area records as KML files and carbon estimation area (CEA) records as a ZIP file containing SHP files. We are considering providing all register geospatial files as SHP files.

Consultation questions

- Will the proposed switch from the KML to SHP file format suit your needs? If not, which file formats would be more suitable?

Transitioning register raw data to Data Services

We will transition the publication of the raw data that comprises the register to [Data Services](#)⁸.

Data Services will include a basic web view of the raw data tables, and users can download the raw data in either csv or parquet file format, or access the data through an API.

We will continue to maintain the interactive web views of register data on our website.

As a result of this transition, the URL for the raw data files comprising the register will change when they transition to Data Services. Users will need to update any of their systems that use the URL for the register data.

Consultation questions

- Do you currently use any automated systems to download the raw data files published on our website? If so, how frequently do you access that data and what purpose do you use it for?
- Are you likely to use the parquet file format to access the register raw data? If so, why?

Publishing information derived from geospatial records

We are considering opportunities to increase ACCU Scheme transparency by providing additional tabular data derived from geospatial records that are required to be published on the register. This could include:

- total area of project area (ha)
- total area of carbon estimation areas (ha)
- IBRA bioregion of carbon estimation areas.

Currently, geospatial records published on the register are not associated with any geospatial data underlying or describing those records.

We would only publish information that can be readily derived through analysis of the geospatial records we are required to publish under the scheme legislation.

Consultation questions

- Do you believe there might be any issues with the proposal to publish information alongside the register that is derived from geospatial records published on the register? If so, what are those issues?
- What other information derived from geospatial records should be published alongside the project register?

⁸ <http://www.data.cer.gov.au/>

Publishing geospatial records on a national platform

We plan to make geospatial records that are published on the register available and easily accessible through a publicly available geospatial platform, such as [Geoscience Australia's Digital Atlas of Australia](#)⁹.

This would be in addition to the register data we publish. Our website will continue to be the authoritative source of the register and of geospatial records required to be published on the register.

Records provided through such a national platform would be updated less frequently than the data published on our website, and their accuracy may not be guaranteed by us.

Consultation questions

- Would the ability to access geospatial records on a national platform benefit you? If so, how?
- Which other national data platforms should we consider for publishing geospatial records?

Publishing monthly ACCU issuance details

We are considering publishing monthly ACCU issuance totals on the register for each project, in alignment with the register publication frequency.

The CFI Act requires the total number of ACCUs issued within a financial year for each project to be published on the register.

Publishing details on monthly ACCU issuance totals would provide the market more clarity on historic ACCU issuance. This information can theoretically already be derived from register updates.

Consultation questions

- Would you support us publishing monthly ACCU issuances for projects alongside the register? Why or why not?

Updating our approach to project notes on the register

We are considering changing the project notes field into a structured notes table that includes the note type, the date the note was made, and the description of the note. This change will support accessibility and data analysis.

Currently, the project notes field in the register describes key events affecting ACCU Scheme projects. This includes details such as changes relating to the proponent, project area and methods for a project, as well as information about relinquishments and project splits under section 77A of the CFI Act.

Consultation questions

- Are there any issues with the proposed restructuring of project area notes data into a structured notes table? If so, what are those issues?

⁹ <https://digital.atlas.gov.au/>

Attachment A – Legislative basis for the publication of the ACCU Scheme Project Register

Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011

Part 12—Publication of information

Division 5—Emissions Reduction Fund Register

167 Emissions Reduction Fund Register

- (1) The Regulator must keep a register, to be known as the Emissions Reduction Fund Register.
- (2) The Emissions Reduction Fund Register is to be maintained by electronic means.
- (3) The Emissions Reduction Fund Register is to be made available for inspection on the Regulator’s website.
- (4) The Regulator must ensure that the Emissions Reduction Fund Register is up-to-date.

168 Entries in the Register

- (1) The Emissions Reduction Fund Register must set out, for each eligible offsets project:
 - (a) the name of the project; and
 - (b) if the project is an area-based offsets project—the following:
 - (i) the project area or project areas;
 - (ii) the carbon estimation area, or carbon estimation areas, for the project; and
 - (c) a description of the project; and
 - (d) whether the project is a joint implementation project; and
 - (e) the location of the project; and
 - (f) the project proponent for the project; and
 - (g) the name of the applicable methodology determination; and
 - (h) whether the relevant declaration under section 27 is subject to a condition that all relevant regulatory approvals must be obtained before the end of the first reporting period for the project; and
 - (ha) whether the relevant declaration under section 27 is subject to a condition mentioned in subsection 28A(2); and
 - (i) if the project is a sequestration offsets project:
 - (i) whether the project is a 100-year permanence period project or a 25-year permanence period project; and
 - (ii) when the permanence period for the project will end; and
 - (ja) if:
 - (i) the project is an area-based offsets project; and
 - (ii) the project area, or any of the project areas, is covered by a regional natural resource management plan;whether the project is consistent with the plan; and
 - (k) if any Australian carbon credit units have been issued in relation to the project in accordance with Part 2:
 - (i) the total number of units so issued; and
 - (ii) the financial year, or each of the financial years, in which those units were so issued; and
 - (iii) the name of the person, or each of the persons, to whom those units have been issued; and

- (m) if any Australian carbon credit units have been relinquished in order to comply with a requirement under Part 7 in relation to the project—the total number of units so relinquished; and
- (n) if the project is a sequestration offsets project, and the project area or project areas are to any extent subject to a carbon maintenance obligation:
 - (i) a statement to the effect that the project area or project areas are, to a specified extent, subject to a carbon maintenance obligation; and
 - (ii) the net total number of Australian carbon credit units issued in relation to the project in accordance with Part 2; and
- (o) if:
 - (i) the project proponent for the project has requested the Regulator that particular information about the environmental benefits, or community benefits, of the project be set out in the Emissions Reduction Fund Register; and
 - (ii) the request has not been withdrawn; and
 - (iii) the requested information meets the requirements specified in the regulations or the legislative rules;the requested information; and
- (p) if the project is a joint implementation project—such other information relating to the project as is specified in the regulations or the legislative rules; and
- (q) such other information (if any) relating to the project as the Regulator considers appropriate.

(2A) For the purposes of subparagraph (1)(i)(ii), the permanence period for a project ends at the last time when a notice could be given under subsection 89(2) in relation to the project if it were assumed that the requirements of paragraphs 89(1)(b) and (c) had been met.

- (3) If one or more areas of land that were formerly a project area or project areas of an eligible offsets project are to any extent subject to a carbon maintenance obligation, the Emissions Reduction Fund Register must:
- (a) set out a statement to the effect that the area or areas are, to a specified extent, subject to a carbon maintenance obligation; and
 - (b) identify the area or areas of land; and
 - (c) set out the net total number of Australian carbon credit units issued in relation to the project in accordance with Part 2.

(4) Regulations or legislative rules made for the purposes of paragraph (1)(p) must be consistent with the Kyoto rules.

Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Rule 2015

Part 12—Publication of information

93A Publication of relevant information

1. For the purposes of subsection 166A(2) of the Act, the following information in relation to an eligible offsets project is specified:
 - (a) a description of the project that includes a list of activities that have been, are being, or are to be, carried out during the project's crediting period;
 - (b) where the project is carried out under a methodology determination that requires identification of suppression mechanisms in the baseline period, a description of any identified suppression mechanisms;

- (c) a description, including the name and version where relevant, of any estimation or measurement approach or model used to calculate carbon abatement in relation to the project;
 - (d) project crediting period start and end dates;
 - (e) if the project is a sequestration offsets project, the start date for the permanence period for the project;
 - (f) where the project is carried out under a methodology determination that requires carbon abatement to be modelled using the Full Carbon Accounting Model or Reforestation Modelling Tool, the date on which modelling starts for each carbon estimation area within the project;
 - (g) where the Regulator has published an undertaking under section 237(5) of the Act in relation to that project, information that links the project to the published undertaking; and
 - (h) where the project proponent has authorised another person as their agent for any purpose listed in section 290(1) of the Act or has otherwise relied on another person's significant involvement in the registration or administration of the project—the name of that other person and a description of their involvement in the project.
2. Despite subsection (1), information specified in that subsection must not be published on the Regulator's website if:
- (a) the project proponent or another person makes an application to the Regulator for non-publication of that information; and
 - (b) the Regulator is satisfied that:
 - (i) the withholding of the information is required to protect or respect Aboriginal tradition; or
 - (ii) publication of the information may threaten, damage or cause harm to a threatened ecological community or threatened species.
3. An application under paragraph (2)(a) must be:
- (a) in writing; and
 - (b) in a form approved, in writing, by the Regulator.
4. The Regulator must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a decision is made on an application under paragraph (2)(a) within 30 days of the request being made.
5. If the Regulator decides to refuse an application under paragraph (2)(a), the Regulator must give written notice of the decision to the person who made the application.
6. During the transitional period, the Regulator is not required to comply with subsection (1) in respect of any information:
- (a) held by the Regulator on the date that this section commences; or
 - (b) acquired by the Regulator during the transitional period.
7. In this section:

Aboriginal tradition has the same meaning as in the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

threatened ecological community means an ecological community included in the list established under section 181 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

threatened species means a species included in the list established under section 178 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

transitional period means the period of 6 months beginning on the commencement of this section.

Attachment B – Legislative basis for the publication of Carbon Abatement Contracts

Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011

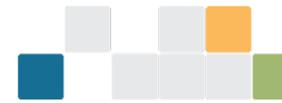
Part 12—Publication of information

Division 5—Emissions Reduction Fund Register

168 Entries in the Register

Carbon abatement contracts

- (5) The Emissions Reduction Fund Register must set out, for each carbon abatement contract that has been entered into:
- (a) the name of the carbon abatement contractor; and
 - (b) the duration of the contract; and
 - (c) the name of the eligible offsets project for which the carbon abatement contractor is a project proponent; and
 - (d) the number of eligible carbon credit units that the carbon abatement contractor has contracted to sell to the Commonwealth under the contract; and
 - (e) the number of eligible carbon credit units that the carbon abatement contractor has sold to the Commonwealth under the contract.



Attachment C – Proposed data model for the register

Field name	Type
• Project ID	PK
• Project Name	Text
• Project revoked	Select(1)
• Methodology	Text
• Method Type	Text
• Method URL	Hyperlink
• Project description	Text
• Date project registered	Date
• Crediting period start date	Date
• Crediting period end date	Date
• Project area URL	Hyperlink
• Carbon estimation area URL	Hyperlink
• Project area size (ha.)	Numeric
• Carbon estimation area size (ha.)	Numeric
• Carbon Estimation Area Supplementary information URL	Hyperlink
• If the area-based project is covered by a regional natural resource management plan, is it consistent with that plan?	Select(2)
• Joint Implementation project	Select(3)
• Is the project area or project areas subject to a Carbon Maintenance Obligation (CMO)?	Select(4)
• Conditional upon all regulatory approvals being obtained	Select(2)
• Conditional upon the written consent of relevant interest holders	Select(2)
• Enforceable undertaking URL	Hyperlink
• Nominated Permanence Period, if applicable	Select(5)
• Start date of permanence period, if applicable	Date
• Finish date of permanence period, if applicable	Date

Biodiversity Market Register Connections		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Nature Repair Project ID	FK	

Contract Connections		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Carbon Abatement Contract ID	FK	

Persons		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Name	Text	
• Role type	Select(6)	

Locations		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Land title	Text	
• Local government area	Text	
• Postcode	Text	
• State	Text	

Activities		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Activity Name	Text	
• Suppressor Name	Text	

Estimation or measurement approach		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Approach name	Text	

CEAs		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• CEA_ID	Text	
• Modelling start date	Date	

ACCU Transactions		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Amount	Integer	
• ACCU type	Select(7)	
• Transaction Type	Select(8)	
• Transaction Date	Date (Month and year only)	
• Transaction Month	Text	
• Transaction Month Sort	Integer	
• Transaction Year	Integer	
• Financial year	Text	

Notes		Type
• Project ID	FK	
• Note type	Select(9)	
• Note Date	Date	
• Description	Select	

Contracts		Type
• Carbon Abatement Contract ID	PK	
• Contractor Name	Text	
• Delivery Obligation	Select(10)	
• Original volume of abatement committed under contract	Numeric	
• Status	Select(11)	
• Delivery period in years (as set out in the contract)	Numeric	
• Total contract length, including time to fulfil Conditions Precedent (as set out in the contract)	Numeric	
• Actual contract duration from commencement date	Numeric	
• Actual contract duration from contract date	Numeric	
• Subject to Conditions Precedent at time of contract	Select(3)	
• Auction Name	FK	

Auctions		Type
• Auction Name	PK	
• Auction Date	Date	
• Contracts awarded	Integer	
• Total commitment	Numeric	

Contract volume event		Type
• Carbon Abatement Contract ID	FK	
• Amount	Integer	
• Event Type	Select(12)	
• Transaction Date	Date (Month and year only)	
• Transaction Month	Text	
• Transaction Month Sort	Integer	
• Transaction Year	Integer	
• Financial year	Text	

Key	
(1) Active, Revoked	
(2) Yes, No, N/A	
(3) Yes, No	
(4) Yes, There is no carbon maintenance obligation on this project area, N/A	
(5) 25, 100, N/A	
(6) Agent, Proponent, Significantly involved person, ACCUs	
(7) KACCU, NKACCU	
(8) Issuance, Relinquishment	
(9) Project area variation, Project proponent variation, Method variation, Crediting	
(10) Fixed delivery, Optional delivery.	
(11) Active, Completed, Lapsed/Terminated	
(12) Fixed contract exit, Delivery against contract, Optional delivery milestone lapse	