

PRINCIPLES FOR REGIONAL NRM PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (THE PRINCIPLES)



Introduction

Regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations will incorporate climate change mitigation and adaptation into existing regional NRM plans.

Existing Regional NRM Plans

Existing regional NRM plans are of varying climate change readiness. The Australian Government recognises there is varying capacity for each of the regional NRM organisations to: plan for the uncertainties of climatic conditions; access suitable planning resources, including spatial information; and identify those parts of the landscape suitable for biodiverse carbon plantings.

Purpose of the Principles

The Principles have been developed to guide the process of updating the existing regional NRM plans. Updated regional NRM plans will be considered against these Principles by the Australian Government.

Updated regional NRM plans will help guide where carbon bio-sequestration opportunities occur in the landscape and help guide the types and locations of carbon farming and biodiversity activities to help maximise the benefits for biodiversity, water and agricultural production.

An adaptive management approach and continued improved strategic planning will ensure development of NRM co-benefits such as landscape connectivity, resilience and wildlife corridors. The Australian Government recognises that these processes for updating plans are continuous.

The Principles acknowledge that high quality systems and processes are essential to make good decisions for best possible outcomes. They also emphasise that planning processes should engage stakeholders when considering the potential environmental, NRM and community impacts of a growing carbon market.

The institutional frameworks and guidance for regional NRM planning varies according to state/territory jurisdiction, therefore the Principles seek to guide alignment with existing statutory accreditation processes, and planning requirements.

It is acknowledged that updating whole regional NRM plans is outside the scope of this project and updates will focus on matters stated in these principles.

Principles for Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change

Principle	Attributes
<p>1. Plans identify priority landscapes for carbon plantings and strategies to build landscape integrity and guide adaptation and mitigation actions to address climate change impacts on natural ecosystems</p>	<p>a) Planning processes identify opportunities and management strategies to maximise environmental benefits and landscape resilience, including biodiverse plantings, wildlife corridors, landscape connectivity and protection of remnant vegetation</p>
	<p>b) Planning processes recognise, provide guidance to avoid and mitigate potential risks and adverse impacts associated with carbon sequestration in the landscape, including impacts to biodiversity, water resources and production systems</p>
	<p>c) Planning processes identify priority landscapes for potential carbon sequestration opportunities, mitigation and adaptation in the context of improving landscape connectivity, resilience and wildlife corridors</p>
<p>2. Planning process is logical, comprehensive, and transparent</p>	<p>a) Planning processes consider previous planning and are consistent with relevant jurisdiction specific planning requirements</p>
	<p>b) Planning processes are informed by a clear understanding of the regional stakeholder and community aspirations and objectives</p>
	<p>c) Planning processes demonstrate a clear understanding of the regional NRM organisation's business, roles and responsibilities</p>
	<p>d) Planning processes show evidence of cooperation for cross-regional climate change impacts and land use planning</p>
	<p>e) Adaptive planning responds to new information and guide improvements as knowledge improves</p>
	<p>f) Planning processes use information at an appropriate scale to spatially identify priority areas in the landscape for carbon sequestration projects and environmental co-benefits</p>
	<p>g) Planning processes demonstrate adaptive planning that responds to current and anticipated climate change research and additional information</p>
<p>3. Plans use best available information to develop actions and are based on collaboration with government, community and other stakeholders</p>	<p>a) Plans demonstrate strategic alignment with relevant state and Commonwealth NRM policies (such as urban and regional planning, matters of National Environmental Significance, National Water Initiative and the National Wildlife Corridors Plan)</p>
	<p>b) Plans meaningfully engage community and stakeholders</p>
	<p>c) Where relevant, plans identify roles and responsibilities for partners in the region</p>
	<p>d) Plans integrate biophysical, socio-economic and climate change information to fine tune strategies for improving landscape connectivity, function and resilience</p>