Carbon Farming Initiative
Example application: Piggeries

The following sample application has been designed to assist you in completing your application to undertake an Eligible Offsets Project using the methodology determination.

The sample application demonstrates the type of information and amount of detail that is required for a complete assessment of your project against the methodology determination ‘Destruction of Methane generated from Manure in Piggeries Methodology Determination 2012’. It also demonstrates other essential information needed to complete an assessment of your project.

Please note, the sample application does not include examples of attachments that may be required as part of your application. When submitting your application, you must remember to include any attachments specified in the form.

It is important to note that if the information you provide does not demonstrate how your project meets all the requirements of a specific methodology determination, or does not address all other information required, your application will be returned to you with a request for further information.

A request for further information will result in a delay in assessing your application.

To minimise the delay, the Carbon Farming Assessment Team recommends additional information be provided within fourteen days of you receiving the request.

If you cannot provide further information within fourteen days, please contact your case officer at the Clean Energy Regulator to discuss when you will be able to provide the information.

Your case officer will also be able to provide advice on how to ensure timely assessment of your application.
Purpose of this form

This form is to be used to apply to the Clean Energy Regulator, under section 22 of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (the CFI Act), for the declaration of an offsets project that is an emissions avoidance offsets project, as an eligible offsets project. This form is used to give the Clean Energy Regulator information about the person responsible for carrying out a proposed offsets project (the ‘project proponent’) and the proposed activity (the ‘offsets project’), to enable the Clean Energy Regulator to decide whether or not to declare the project an eligible offsets project under the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (the CFI Act).

Instructions for completing this form

Please read each part of the application carefully, fully answer all the questions, sign where indicated, and attach the required documentation.

Applicant must complete and submit:

- Part A: Applicant details
- Part B: Project details
- Part C: Attachments and document checklist
- Part D: Declaration

You need to have a recognised offsets entity number before you can submit your application for the declaration of an eligible offsets project. If you haven’t yet applied to be a recognised offsets entity, you can request the Application for Recognition as an Offsets Entity form by phoning 1300 553 542 or you can download the form from www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

Once you complete and submit the Application for Recognition as an Offsets Entity form, you will be provided with a recognised offsets entity application reference number. Your eligible offsets project form can be submitted with that number. However, an offsets project cannot be declared eligible by the Clean Energy Regulator unless a project proponent is a recognised offsets entity.

To learn more about the steps involved in participating in the Carbon Farming Initiative, including your obligations under this initiative, please visit www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.
Part A: Applicant details

The applicant must be the project proponent, the agent of the project proponent on behalf of the project proponent, or the person nominated by multiple project proponents to be their nominee in relation to the project.

A project proponent is the person who is responsible for the eligible offsets project and has the legal right to carry out the project. A proponent can be an individual, a body corporate, a trustee of a trust, a corporation sole, a body politic (such as a State or Territory) or a local governing body. An agent is a person authorised to act on behalf of the project proponent.

1. Are you a project proponent or the agent of a project proponent? (Required)
   - Agents will need to provide written evidence of authorisation from the project proponent – see Section D. The Clean Energy Regulator may request further evidence if required.
   - Tick the appropriate response.
   - **Project proponent**
   - **Agent**

2. Name and contact details of the project proponent. (Required)
   - Tick appropriate title, or add other title in the space provided.
   - **Title**
     - **Mr**
     - **Mrs**
     - **Miss**
     - **Ms**
     - **Other**
   - **Other**
   - **Add full name details below.**
     - **Given name**
       - **Betty**
     - **Middle name(s)**
     - **Family name**
       - **Smith**
   - **Company name**
     - **Piggery Farms Pty Ltd**
   - You must provide one of the following for the eligible person in order of precedence: ABN, ACN or ARBN.
   - **ABN**
     - 76543210123
     - **If the eligible person does not have an ABN, please provide the eligible person's ACN.**
   - **ACN**
     - 765432101
     - **If the eligible person does not have an ABN or an ACN, please provide the eligible person's ARBN.**
   - **ARBN**

---

**Example application:** Piggeries
Provide the contact details.

Phone number: 0411 509 333
Email address: Betty_Smith@piggery.com

Provide the mailing address of the project proponent.

Address: Mur Road
Suburb/City: Norton
Country: Australia
State: VIC
Postcode: 3594

3. Project proponent’s Recognised Offsets Entity (ROE) number. (Required)
   - If you have applied to become a Recognised Offsets Entity, but have not yet been recognised by the Clean Energy Regulator please supply your ROE application reference number.
   - Provide the ROE number.
   - ROE number: 201342

4. Agent details.
   - For a definition of an Agent see Definitions on page 19.
   - Tick appropriate title, or add other title in the space provided.
   - Title: Mr
   - Other

Add full name details below.

Given name: Jim
Middle name(s): 
Family name: Smith

Provide the person’s contact details.

Phone number: 0411 509 334
Email address: Jim_Smith@piggery.com

QUESTION 3
Your Recognised Offsets Entity number is provided by the Clean Energy Regulator upon receipt of your Recognised Offsets Entity application. Your Recognised Offsets Entity number is not your Australian National Register of Emissions Units (ANREU) account number. The Clean Energy Regulator will not be able to declare your project eligible if you are not a Recognised Offsets Entity.

QUESTION 4
An agent is an individual or a company that is authorised to represent an individual proponent (or a number of individuals) for the purposes of the eligible offsets project. The agent becomes the primary contact person for the project that the application is associated with. The agent must provide evidence that they have been authorised to represent the project.

If the proponent is a company and not an individual, it is recommended that you fill in Q4 with the details of the key contact person. This person will be your contact person in relation to the application and the eligible offsets project.
Provide the mailing address of the agent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td>Muz Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburb/City</td>
<td>Norton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>VIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcode</td>
<td>3594</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Does your project have two or more proponents? (Required)

- An eligible offsets project may have multiple project proponents. For example, if the project land is owned by a couple or a group that jointly hold the right to undertake the project.
- If insufficient space, attach a separate sheet with the details. Clearly identify the nature of any additional documentation or information that you are supplying to support your answer to this question.

Tick the appropriate response.

- No
- Yes

Provide full name(s) and ROE number(s) of all other proponents.

Name(s) and ROE number(s)*

6. Have you been nominated as the nominee for the project? (Required)

- See ‘Multiple proponents’ for information about nominees on page 19.

Tick the appropriate response.

- No
- Yes

Please attach evidence that all of the project proponents have nominated you as the nominee for this project. Download the Multiple Proponent Nomination of Nominees form from www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

Example application: Piggeries
Part B: Project details

This part identifies the attributes of the proposed offsets project.

7. What is the project title? (Required)
   - Consider incorporating a locality, property, business or other name to ensure the project title is unique. For example, Black Stump Flaring Project
   - Provide project title.
     
     **Project title:** Piggery Farms Gas Project

8. Project location. (Required)
   - A project may be made up of one or several project areas covering one or more land titles.
   - Provide a brief description of the location of the project including local government area and street address.
     
     **Description:** Lot 01, DP 123568, Curtin Parish
     Local Government Area of Anglesea

   - For each land title covering or partially covering the project area or areas, provide either:
     - A certified copy of each relevant land title.
     - The land title reference number(s) including, where applicable the block number, section number, volume, folio and edition.
     - If insufficient space, attach a separate sheet with the details. Clearly identify the nature of any additional documentation or information that you are supplying to support your answer to this question.
     
     **Land title references:** See Attached Land Title

   - Projects where estimates of abatement require determination of the size of the project area(s), must supply digital geospatial mapping information in accordance with the Carbon Farming Initiative Mapping Guidelines.
     
     **Project area:** N/A

   - Note: This requires digital geospatial data files to be attached or submitted electronically (e.g. email, CD, DVD or USB storage device) in support of this application that can be opened by GIS mapping software and that meet the requirements of the Carbon Farming Initiative Mapping Guidelines.
     
     
     - List the geospatial information and files attached to this application.
     - If insufficient space, attach a separate sheet with the details. Clearly identify the nature of any additional documentation or information that you are supplying to support your answer to this question.

   - Provide digital geospatial mapping information in accordance with the Carbon Farming Initiative Mapping Guidelines.
QUESTION 9
Projects without a nominated methodology determination cannot be assessed by the Clean Energy Regulator. Methodology determinations are developed by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. Please do not provide the name of a draft methodology. The title of the methodology determination used for the eligible offsets project must be written in full. This is to avoid confusion when additional methodology determinations come into effect. The full title of the methodology determination is “Destruction of Methane generated from manure in Piggeries.”

QUESTION 10
If you back date your project you must have evidence that the project was undertaken in accordance with the legislation. You may be asked to provide the evidence prior to a decision being made on whether to issue the project with Australian carbon credit units.

QUESTION 11
Please ensure you have read the record keeping and monitoring requirements specific to your methodology determination and ensure you are able to demonstrate conformance. See Part 4 of the methodology determination for what you need to do.

QUESTION 12
Your project description is vital to assessing the eligibility of your project. A comprehensive description of your project addressing Parts 1.3 and 2 of the methodology determination will reduce the likelihood of requests for further information and delays in processing your application.

Eligible offsets projects must also comply with the rules for calculating the carbon dioxide equivalent net abatement amount for a project in relation to a reporting period (Part 3) and the monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements (Part 4) of the relevant methodology determination to receive Australian carbon credit units.

For instance, you must address whether or not the design of your project’s effluent treatment ponds comply with the best practice principles as set out in the National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries 2010, which can be found under the Publications tab on the Australian Pork Limited website.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The project captures biogas generated by the decomposition of pig manure in anaerobic lagoons, and then combusts the methane component of the captured biogas.

Two covered anaerobic lagoons capture the methane emitted from the manure and prevent release of biogas. The methane is combusted and converted to CO₂ using a combination of flares and generators. The electricity generated from this project has meant the piggery no longer needs to buy electricity from the grid, and any excess electricity produced is sold back into the grid.

Our project meets all the requirements of the methodology determination ‘Destruction of methane generated from manure in piggeries’, including lagoons.
with a minimum depth of 2 metres that comply with best practice principles for the design of effluent treatment ponds as set out in the National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries 2010.

Other essential requirements met by the project are:

1. The only input to the lagoons is effluent from the operation of the piggery sheds in the project.
2. The flaring system used includes a control system that prevents gas flow through the flare when the flare is not operational.
3. The flaring system includes a temperature monitoring system that ensures the flare operates only at the temperature required for complete combustion of methane, and will stop biogas flow through the flare when the flare temperature drops below the temperature required for complete combustion of methane.

Eligibility for back dating project

We have evidence to demonstrate that all activities meet the eligibility requirements set out in Part 2 of the methodology determination and request the start date of the project be recorded as 01 July 2010. Records and data have been collected and stored as part of the project’s quality assurance arrangements.

13. Is, or was, your project completely or partly covered by a prescribed non-Carbon Farming Initiative offsets scheme or other non-Carbon Farming Initiative scheme? (Required)

- [ ] No  Go to Question 18
- [ ] Yes  

14. Which scheme(s) is, or was, your project covered by? (Required)

- [ ] The Greenhouse Friendly Initiative
- [ ] NSW Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme (GGAS)
- [ ] ACT Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme (GGAS)
- [ ] Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)
- [ ] Other, please specify

15. Is your project either: (Required)

- a. a project that has been issued with credits under the other offsets scheme(s), or
- b. a project still eligible to be credited under the other offsets scheme(s)?

- [ ] No

**QUESTION 13**

Prescribed non-Carbon Farming Initiative offsets schemes include Greenhouse Friendly, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme, Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme and the Verified Carbon Standard (see Carbon Farming Initiative Regulations 1.7). Other non-Carbon Farming Initiative offsets schemes are those that are not carried out under the CFI Act or Regulations and are not a prescribed non Carbon Farming Initiative scheme (see Carbon Farming Initiative Regulations 1.3). Companies or agencies that sell current or future carbon offsets, and the funds from which are used to help support the establishment of the project area, are considered to be non-Carbon Farming Initiatives offsets schemes.

**QUESTION 14**

If the project is not covered under a prescribed non-CFI offsets scheme but is covered under a non-CFI offsets scheme (i.e., ‘other’), the name of the non-CFI offsets scheme is required.

**QUESTION 15**

Example evidence of New South Wales Greenhouse Gas Abatement Certificates issued provided.
QUESTION 16

Example evidence of New South Wales Greenhouse Gas Abatement Certificates sold provided.

16. Is your project one that either: (Required)
   
   a. has had abatement sold or otherwise accounted for under the other offsets scheme(s), or
   
   b. will continue to be eligible to have abatement sold or otherwise accounted for under the other offsets scheme(s)?

   Tick the appropriate response.

   No
   
   Yes

   You must attach evidence of:
   
   - the number of carbon credits that have been issued under the other offsets scheme(s) including the periods of time for which they were issued, and
   
   - the amount of abatement that, before an application was made under section 22 of the CFI Act for the project, had been sold or accounted for under the other offsets scheme(s).
17. If your project is, or was, covered by Greenhouse Friendly or GGAS, are you requesting to transition your project to the Carbon Farming Initiative via a determination under section 95 of the CFI Act? (Required)

- Tick the appropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. If you do not request a determination under section 95 of the CFI Act, your application cannot proceed.</td>
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18. Is there a current regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) plan that covers the location of your project? (Required, if one exists)

- Tick the appropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go to Question 21</td>
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19. Give details of the NRM plan that covers the location of your project. (Required)

- Provide details of the NRM plan.

**Name of NRM organisation**: Corangamite CMA

**Name of NRM plan**: Corangamite Regional Strategy 2012-18 – attached for reference

**Date of publication**: Day (dd) 18, Month (mm) 12, Year (yyyy) 2012

20. Is your project consistent with the NRM plan? (Required)

- Tick the appropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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21. Is the project required to obtain any government regulatory approvals? (Required)

The Clean Energy Regulator must be satisfied that the project has met all relevant Commonwealth, state and territory and local government approvals and licence requirements. This may include, but is not limited to, planning and development approvals, environmental approvals and water extraction licences.

The Clean Energy Regulator may request further information or a copy of the approval. If insufficient space, attach a separate sheet with the details. Clearly identify the nature of any additional documentation or information that you are supplying to support your answer to this question.

Tick the appropriate response.

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Provide details of any approvals required, the aspects of the project they relate to, the name of each regulatory authority responsible for issuing the approvals and where relevant, the date the approvals were issued.

Surf Coast Shire Council
Development Consent DA 80-09/12
EPA Licence Number: 0987
Full licence details attached.
Certified copy of development permit attached.

22. Have all relevant regulatory approvals been obtained? (Required)

If the relevant regulatory approvals to carry out the project have yet to be obtained, the Clean Energy Regulator can issue a declaration subject to the condition that all regulatory approvals must be obtained before the end of the reporting period. Once the necessary approvals have been obtained, the project proponent can apply to the Clean Energy Regulator to vary the declaration to remove the condition.

If insufficient space, attach a separate sheet with the details. Clearly identify the nature of any additional documentation or information that you are supplying to support your answer to this question.

Tick the appropriate response.

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<tbody>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

Which approvals are outstanding and what action has been taken to obtain them? List below.

Go to Question 23

23. Proposed end date for your first reporting period for the project. (Required)

Offsets reports are the primary mechanism used by the Clean Energy Regulator to determine whether or not to issue credits for an eligible project.

Project proponents can choose when to report on their project provided it is between 12 months and 5 years from the date their project is declared eligible (which may have been backdated to a date no earlier than 1 July 2010). In most cases an offsets report must be accompanied by an audit report prepared by a registered greenhouse gas and energy auditor, and must be submitted to the Clean Energy Regulator within 3 months of the end of a nominated reporting period. Project proponents may alter the proposed reporting period end date at any time by notifying the Clean Energy Regulator.

Provide the date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication</th>
<th>Day (dd)</th>
<th>Month (mm)</th>
<th>Year (yyyy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers only

You may wish to contact your local and/or state government to determine if your project area requires regulatory approval. Copies of an Environmental Protection Authority licence may also assist the Clean Energy Regulator in assessing your legal right to undertake the project.

If you are backdating and you are intending to report as soon as you are able you may wish to make a statement that you intend to report within 3 months of the declaration being made noting that the offsets report must be submitted within 3 months of the end of the reporting period.

If you are backdating and you are intending to report as soon as you are able you may wish to make a statement that you intend to report within 3 months of the declaration being made noting that the offsets report must be submitted within 3 months of the end of the reporting period.
24. **Do you intend for this project to be a Joint Implementation project? (Required)**

   - A Joint Implementation project is a project carried out by two developed countries in accordance with the relevant Kyoto rules.
   - For more information see www.climatechange.gov.au

   Tick the appropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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25. **Do you have the legal right to carry out the project? (Required)**

   - Having the legal right may involve legal ownership of the project area or the contractual rights to carry out the project in the project area. You should consider seeking professional legal advice relevant for your circumstances before signing this form to ensure you have the legal right to carry out the project as required by the CFI Act.

   Tick the appropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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</thead>
</table>

   - If you have not established your legal right to carry out the project, the project cannot be declared eligible under the Carbon Farming Initiative.

26. **Is the project area, or any part of it, used, or to be used during the period of the project, to meet an obligation under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law to offset or compensate for an adverse impact of an action on vegetation? (Required)**

   - This includes projects under bio banking schemes or areas that are planted or protected to compensate for the clearing of native vegetation.
   - If insufficient space, attach a separate sheet with the details. Clearly identify the nature of any additional documentation or information that you are supplying to support your answer to this question.

   Tick the appropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
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   - Provide details below.
### Part C: Attachments and document checklist

27. Attachment confirmation checklist.

The following documents and information MUST be provided with this application (where relevant).

- **The Clean Energy Regulator WILL NOT accept original documents.**
- **Tick the appropriate responses.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Written evidence of this authorisation such as minuted meeting notes or signed letters from proponents (preferably on letterhead) or an agency agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Evidence that all of the project proponents have nominated you as the nominee for this project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Download the Multiple Proponent Nomination of Nominees form from <a href="http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au">www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Digital geospatial data files for each project area that can be opened in GIS mapping software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A certified copy of all relevant land titles for the proposed project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Additional description of the proposed project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Additional documents to support your application (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>You must attach evidence of the number of carbon credits that have been issued under the other offsets scheme(s) including the period of time for which they were issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>You must attach evidence of the number of credits that have been sold or otherwise accounted for under the other offsets scheme(s) including the periods of time for which they were generated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUESTION 27**

Please use the checklist to ensure you have provided all the additional documentation and information required.
Part D: Declaration

This application must be signed by the project proponent or a person legally authorised to bind the project proponent.

Division 137 of the Criminal Code makes it an offence for a person to give information to a Commonwealth entity if the person providing the information knows that the information is false or misleading. The maximum penalty for such an offence is imprisonment up to 12 months.

28. Applicant’s declaration (Required)

- Confirm each item by ticking the checkbox
- Complete and sign the declaration
- Have a witness sign the declaration

By signing this request, the signatory declares that he/she has the legal capacity and authority to make this application on behalf of the project proponent named in this form, and declares and acknowledges for and on behalf of the project proponent, that:

- all information provided in, or in relation to, this application (including attachments and any other supporting information) is, on the basis of reasonable inquiries, complete, true, and correct and not misleading by inclusion or omission.
- the proposed offsets project meets all eligibility requirements under the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (the CFI Act), in particular subsection 27(4), and the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011 (CFI Regulations), in particular regulation 3.1.
- the provision of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995 and may have consequences under the CFI Act and other laws.
- the project proponent understands and accepts the responsibilities of operating an eligible offsets project under the CFI Act (applicants are strongly encouraged to read the CFI Act and Regulations and other guidance materials including the Carbon Farming Initiative Handbook available at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au).
- the project proponent has the power and authority to enter into and perform the requirements of an eligible offsets project.
- any of the information provided in relation to this application may be copied, recorded, used or disclosed by the Clean Energy Regulator for the purpose of assessing and making a decision on the application, auditing compliance, enforcement of relevant laws and regulations and for related purposes subject to the requirements of relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 and Part 3 of the Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011.
- the project proponent authorises the Clean Energy Regulator to seek advice about their participation in other offsets scheme(s) from the administrator of the other offsets scheme(s), or if the scheme(s) are no longer in operation, from the Commonwealth, State or Territory agency with oversight.
- the project proponent has the legal right to undertake this project.
- the project proponent authorises the Clean Energy Regulator to seek advice from the relevant regulatory authority(ies) on any regulatory approvals pertaining to the project.
**Signatory (Required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Betty Smith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature date</td>
<td>18 01 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position in applicant organisation (if applicable)</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Witness (Required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jim Smith</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature date</td>
<td>18 01 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Norton, Victoria</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Additional information

About the Carbon Farming Initiative

The Carbon Farming Initiative is a voluntary carbon offsets scheme that provides new economic opportunities for farmers and land managers who take steps to reduce carbon pollution or increase carbon storage on the land. Eligible offsets projects generate Australian carbon credit units that can be sold to other individuals and businesses wanting to offset their own greenhouse gas emissions.

The Carbon Farming Initiative is supported by the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (the CFI Act) and the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011 (CFI Regulations) and the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Act 2011. Credits for abatement recognised under Australia’s Kyoto accounts can be sold to companies with liabilities under the Clean Energy Act 2011.

Activities that can be undertaken as eligible offsets projects either reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions or store carbon. For example, through the capture and destruction of methane emissions from legacy landfill waste or livestock manure, or through the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and then storing it in soil or plants – such as by growing a forest. For a project to be an eligible offsets project under the Carbon Farming Initiative, the project proponent must have the legal right to carry out the project. Projects must also pass the Carbon Farming Initiative additionality test, meet the requirements set out in the Carbon Farming Initiative methodology determination, not be of a type on the negative list and meet certain other eligibility requirements. The Clean Energy Regulator may request further information to confirm that your project meets these requirements.

Eligible offsets projects that store carbon in soil or plants are known as sequestration offsets projects or sequestration projects. Sequestration projects have a unique set of eligibility criteria because the stored carbon can be released back to the atmosphere by man-made or natural events. In such circumstances, project proponents are obliged to re-establish carbon stores for which credits have been issued or to hand back an equivalent number and type of credits received for the project. However, credits do not have to be handed back if carbon stores are lost for reasons beyond the control of the project proponent (e.g. drought). To ensure carbon remains stored, the Clean Energy Regulator can issue a carbon maintenance obligation that ‘runs with the land’ and therefore applies to future land owners. For this reason, the project proponent must hold the exclusive legal right to the carbon stored on the project area and each person with an eligible interest in the land on which the project will occur, is required to give written consent to this application by completing a Carbon Farming Initiative Eligible Interest Holder Consent form, available at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

Carbon Farming Initiative methodologies

Applications for a project to be declared eligible under the Carbon Farming Initiative may be submitted once a relevant Carbon Farming Initiative methodology determination is available. Links to the approved methodology determinations can be found at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

Backdating and crediting periods

In circumstances where a project is underway, applications for a project to be declared eligible can request that eligibility be backdated. Projects cannot be backdated to a day earlier than 1 July 2010. If you do not nominate a start date, the date the project declaration is made will be the project start date for Carbon Farming Initiative purposes.

Projects can only be backdated if the application for the methodology was submitted to the Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee before 1 July 2012 and was finalised as a methodology determination under legislation by 30 June 2013.

For a project declaration to be backdated, the Clean Energy Regulator must be satisfied that the proposed project meets all the eligibility requirements of the legislation, regulations and the methodology determination in the period between 1 July 2010 (or other proposed start date) and the date that the declaration is made. If the Clean Energy Regulator is not satisfied that these eligibility requirements were met in this period, the declaration could still be made with prospective operation only.

If the project is assessed as eligible, the project declaration will set out the date from which the crediting period begins. The crediting period is the timeframe during which a project proponent can apply for Australian carbon credit units for the project. Credits are calculated according to the rules set out in the chosen methodology determination, and for sequestration projects, the reserve buffer in place at the time the project was declared eligible. For those sequestration projects affected by a prescribed non-Carbon Farming Initiative offsets scheme, unit entitlement is worked out using the formula set out in the Regulations.
Before claiming credits, the proponent must submit an offsets report and an audit report for the project for the reporting period in accordance with the requirements of the CFI Act and regulations. To be eligible for Australian carbon credit units the prescribed audit report that you submit for a reporting period must provide either a reasonable assurance conclusion (clean) or a qualified reasonable assurance conclusion (qualified) for each of the matters audited.

Definitions

Person

A person means any of the following:

- A body corporate
- A trust
- A corporation sole
- A body politic
- A local governing body
- An individual

Project proponent

The project proponent is the person who is responsible for the offsets project, is a recognised offsets entity and who has the legal right to carry out the project.

Multiple project proponents

If the project has multiple proponents (for example, a partnership) a ‘nominee’ should be nominated to receive information relating to the project and make decisions on behalf of the multiple project proponents. A nominee acts on behalf of all the project proponents for a project. A nominee must be appointed to open and manage the Australian National Registry of Emissions Unit account into which Australian carbon credit units from the project would be issued. No Australian carbon credit units can be issued in respect of a project unless a nomination is in force. This nomination should be provided by completing a Multiple Proponent Nomination of Nominees form, available at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au. A nomination can be revoked at any time by giving notice to the Clean Energy Regulator. You will need consent from all of the proponents to act on their behalf as their nominee.

Agents

A project proponent may elect to authorise another person or organisation to act on their behalf, as an agent, in relation to Carbon Farming Initiative. An agent can make or withdraw Carbon Farming Initiative applications, provide information in relation to an application or request and give notices or submissions with respect to the offsets project. An agent does not need to be a Recognised Offsets Entity or hold an account in the Registry and would not receive the Australian carbon credit units.

An agent is required to provide evidence of their authorisation. The Clean Energy Regulator must be satisfied that the agent has been authorised by the recognised offsets entity/project proponent and may request further information in this regard.
Seeking legal advice

The Clean Energy Regulator provides guidance for general information purposes only. The information in this form and supplied by the Clean Energy Regulator should not be interpreted as independent professional advice. You should not rely solely on this information and should get professional legal advice relevant to your individual circumstances.

Privacy statement

The Clean Energy Regulator is bound by the Privacy Act 1988 and the secrecy provisions in the Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011 (CER Act).

The Clean Energy Regulator is authorised under the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 and the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Regulations 2011 to ask for the information in this form.

Any information (including personal information) that is submitted as part of this form will be securely stored. The information may be used for the purposes of assessing and making a decision on the application, auditing compliance, enforcement of relevant laws and for related purposes. Information may be shared with other agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for these purposes and provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 and Part 3 of the Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011.

The Clean Energy Regulator may also disclose information that is submitted as part of this form in discharging its obligation to publish certain information under Part 12 of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011.

Accessibility disclaimer

Whilst the Clean Energy Regulator has worked to ensure this document is accessible, please contact us to obtain an alternative version if you are having difficulty, or you have specific accessibility needs.

Please call 1300 553 542 or email the name of the form and your needs to enquiries@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au

Submitting this form

Post your completed application with any accompanying documentation to:

Carbon Farming Initiative
Clean Energy Regulator
GPO Box 621
Canberra ACT 2601

Alternatively, email your scanned completed application to the Clean Energy Regulator at: cfi@cleanenergyregulator.gov.au.

If the email and its attachments (the application and supporting documents) are larger than 10MB, they must be sent using multiple emails that are clearly marked (i.e. by including an identifier: “1 of 3”, “2 of 3”, “3 of 3” in the subject/title). The signed application form must be saved as a single scanned file and not split into parts. Files may be zipped to reduce their size.

If submission occurs by email, the applicant is not required to send the original hardcopy of the application by post.

You may also submit your completed application by fax on 02 6159 7722, marked to the attention of the Clean Energy Regulator, Carbon Farming Initiative.
Example application:
Piggeries