

Environment and Communications Legislation
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Nature Repair Market Bill 2023 and Nature Repair Market (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023 [Provisions]
Question No: IQ23-000220
Hearing Date: 30 June 2023
Division/Agency: Nature Repair Market and Environmental Science Division
Topic: Methodology determinations
Question Date: 04 July 2023
Question Type: Written

Senator Cadell asked:

1. EM Page 4 – state examples of a method. “Examples could include enhancing remnant vegetation and creating habitat for specific species”.
 - a. Is this one or two different methods?
 - b. If one, would the enhancing remnant vegetation pilot need to create habitat for specific species?
2. Could the Carbon + Biodiversity and Enhancing Remnant Vegetation biodiversity methods being piloted in the field through the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package be submitted to the Nature Repair Market Committee for consideration, including how the biodiversity outcomes are measured and be endorsed?
 - a. If so, can the same payment schedules be adopted given they are unique to those methods?
3. The Minister is able to consider cultural impacts before making or vary a methodology determination of a biodiversity assessment instrument – what does this mean in practice i.e what types of impacts?

Answer:

- 1 a. Two. “Creating” habitat is another way of talking about a major restoration project, whereas “Enhancing Remnant Vegetation” is about existing habitat being improved.
- 1 b. The Enhancing Remnant Vegetation pilot approach provides the basis of a methodology determination under the Nature Repair Market. It would not need to create specific habitat.
- 2 Yes, they could be provided to the Committee for consideration if the Bill has passed Parliament.
 - a. Payment schedules are a matter for buyers and sellers to negotiate under the Nature Repair Market. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is considering ways to communicate the lessons for buyers from the pilots, for example by highlighting potential ways to schedule payments. The department may develop example contracts to assist landholders and buyers when structuring purchasing agreements.
3. The Minister may consider whether opportunities for Indigenous knowledge of cultural heritage and practices have been recognised and appropriately considered in developing the determination. This could include the handling and publication of sensitive cultural information.