

Reef Credit Definitions



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Version Control

Reef Credit Definitions Version 2.1

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2.1	Secretariat	Correction and clarification	2 September 2024

Reef Credit Definitions

Additionality – a requirement that a Reef Credit Project generate Pollutant reductions over and above legal requirements and reductions that would have occurred without the Reef Credit Project.

Authorised Representative – the individual nominated by the holder of the Registry Account who is authorised to act on behalf of the holder of the Registry Account in all dealings with the Secretariat in relation to the Project, including operating its Registry Account.

Baseline Scenario – the conditions that would have been expected to exist in the absence of a Project and against which any future ecological benefits or impacts can be measured.

Buffer Account – the Registry Account used to hold Reef Credits calculated from the Risk of Reversal Buffer.

Business As Usual – water Pollutant reductions that would have occurred notwithstanding the implementation of a Reef Credit Project.

Board – the Eco-Markets Australia Board of Directors.

Common Practice – the extent to which a Pollutant reduction activity has already been adopted in the relevant sector and region.

Consent – the approval of those persons or organisations with a legal interest in the Project Area and may include landowners, lessors, lessees, banks or mortgagees, State and Territory Crown Lands Ministers, and if the Project Area is on Native Title land, any approvals required under law.

Crediting Period – the total time period over which the Reef Credit Project is eligible for issuance of Reef Credits, as specified in the methodology. A Crediting Period starts on the Project Start Date, or in the case of projects requiring civil works, the earlier of either i) date of practical completion of the civil works, or ii) two (2) years after the Project Start Date.

Date of Practical Completion – means the date on which the civil works are complete except for minor defects or omissions that do not prevent the works from being used for their intended purpose.

DIN – means dissolved inorganic nitrogen including nitrogen present as ammonium, nitrate and nitrite.

Eco-Markets Australia – administrator of the Reef Credit Scheme. An independent not-for-profit company, established in Queensland under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) as a company limited by guarantee. Website www.eco-markets.org.au.

Fee Schedule – the fees payable by participants in the Reef Credit Scheme, as amended periodically.

Fit and proper person test - to be a fit and proper person means that the relevant person (individual, body corporate and executive officers of body corporate) has not been convicted of an offence against a law of the Commonwealth, State or Territory, where the offence relates to: (i) dishonest conduct; (ii) the conduct of a business; (iii) the environment or the protection of the environment; or (iv) work health and safety.

Great Barrier Reef catchment area – is the land adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef from which all surface runoff and groundwater flow through a system of creeks, rivers, aquifers and lakes or other bodies of water into the sea.

Leakage – the displacement of activities that harm water quality from one location to another.

Methodology – approved criteria and procedures that follow scientific good practice that apply to specific Reef Credit Project activities to identify the Project Area and duration, determine the

Baseline Scenario, demonstrate Additionality, quantify Net Pollutant Reductions and/or removals, and specify the monitoring procedures.

Methodology Developer – a Person or organisation that writes and develops a Methodology that is subject to the Methodology Application and Revision Procedure.

Monitoring – the process of recording information on the implementation and activities of the Project.

Monitoring Period – the period of time during which Pollutant reductions and any Reversals are monitored and calculated.

Monitoring Plan – the document that describes how monitoring will be conducted over the life of the Reef Credit Project, including the Permanence Period.

Monitoring Report – the report that contains the information required in the Monitoring Plan for a Monitoring Period.

Natural Disturbance Event – any of the following events that affect a Project where the event could not reasonably be prevented by the Project Proponent or Participant; flood, drought, bushfire, cyclone, pest attack, disease or any other event specified by the Secretariat from time to time.

Net Pollutant Reduction Number – Pollutant reductions created by a Project activity after all deductions have been made in accordance with the Methodology, including any deductions for uncertainty, Leakage and any Risk of Reversal Buffer contribution.

Non-compliance – a failure to comply with a requirement under the Reef Credit Standard that:

- continues over a lengthy period of time; or
- is repeated or of a systemic nature; or
- affects a significant area; or
- causes significant damage.

Paddock to Reef Program – the integrated monitoring, modelling and reporting program jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments to measure progress towards the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan targets through the Reef water quality report card.

Participant – an individual or entity that is participating in the Reef Credit Project by developing and implementing a Reef Credit Project Plan.

Performance Benchmark – a benchmark established by reference to what are the usual and accepted amounts of Pollutant reduction generated by a similar practice in the relevant industry, against which the performance of individual Projects is assessed for the purpose of determining Additionality and/or the crediting baseline.

Permanence – refers to whether the net benefit of a Pollutant removal will remain fixed for a long period, or whether the process may soon be reversed.

Permanence Period – 50 years after the end of the last Crediting Period or the required Permanence Period as specified in the relevant Methodology.

Person – an individual, a corporation, a trust, a firm, or a government body or agency.

Pilot Project – is a Reef Credit Project recognised by the Secretariat as having commenced during the Reef Credit pilot phase 1 July 2017 to 14 October 2021.

Pipeline Listing – a Pipeline Project registered by the Secretariat.

Pipeline Project – a Project that is under development but not ready to complete the Validation and Registration process.

Pollutant – means any Pollutant with a load-based target under the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (2017-2022) as amended from time to time.

Project Area – the area over which Project activities are being implemented.

Project Application – the documentation submitted to the Secretariat to register a Project under the Reef Credit Standard and that describes the Project’s Pollutant reduction activities.

Project End Date – the date on which the Reef Credit Project ceases after which the Project is ineligible to generate further Reef Credits.

Project Proponent – the Person or Persons that has overall control and responsibility to carry out the Project and to whom Reef Credits may be issued.

Project Start Date – the date on which the Reef Credit Project activities commenced but cannot be a date earlier than 1 July 2017.

Reef Credit – a quantified and verified amount of Pollutant that has been prevented from entering the Great Barrier Reef.

Reef Credit Project – a Project registered by the Secretariat and listed on the Registry.

Reef Credit Project Plan – documented proposal for implementing Project activities for the duration of the Project as specified in Section 4 of a Methodology.

Project Database – the database that records all Reef Credit Projects and forms part of the Registry.

Reef Credit Scheme - the overarching scheme or framework under which Reef Credits and Reef Credit Projects operate now or in the future (comprising but not limited to the Reef Credit Guide, Reef Credit Standard, Reef Credit Methodology Application and Revision Procedure, Reef Credit Project Application and Crediting Procedure, Reef Credit methodologies and the Secretariat).

Secretariat – the administrative office of Eco-Markets Australia, responsible for the administration of Reef Credit Scheme.

Reef Credit Validity Period – is five (5) years from the date the Reef Credit is issued.

Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan Water Quality Targets – are targets set under the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (2017-2022) as amended from time to time.

Registry – the secure electronic platform operated by the Secretariat which is used to issue, transfer and retire Reef Credits using unique serial number tracking to ensure transparency, traceability and integrity for all Reef Credits.

Registry Account – an account in the Registry that is able to receive, hold, transfer, or retire Reef Credits.

Registry System – the system established by the Secretariat, comprised of the Project Database and the Registry, to provide Project Proponents with the ability to list and register projects, and issue, transfer, hold and retire Reef Credits.

Retirement – the permanent removal of a Reef Credit from circulation in the Registry system which represents a reduction or removal of Pollutant.

Retirement Account – an account in the Registry that holds Reef Credits that are retired.

Reversal – a reduction in the level of verified Pollutant reductions from a Reef Credit Project for which Reef Credits have been issued during a Crediting Period or the Permanence Period.

Risk of Reversal – the possibility that Pollutant removals or reductions may not be permanent because a project has exposure to risk factors, including unintentional Reversal (e.g. flood) or

intentional Reversal (e.g. landowners or Project Proponents choosing to discontinue Project activities).

Risk of Reversal Buffer – the amount of Pollutant reductions estimated using the Risk of Reversal Assessment Tool that are deducted from the monitored Pollutant reductions and transferred to the Buffer Account as Reef Credits.

Risk of Reversal Assessment Tool – calculates the risk of a Reversal of verified Pollutant reductions and quantifies the Risk of Reversal Buffer for Reef Credit Projects. The Risk of Reversal Assessment Tool assigns a Risk of Reversal rating (low, medium or high) based on a set of criteria outlined in the Tool.

Stakeholder – an individual, group or body that has a legitimate stake or interest in the Project and is either participating in or likely to be directly or indirectly affected or influenced by the Project.

Technical Advisory Committee – an independent committee of experts appointed by the Board to provide advice and recommendations to the Board and Secretariat in relation to matters within the Technical Advisory Committee's terms of reference.

Validation – the initial assessment of a Project against the requirements of the Reef Credit Standard and approved Methodology.

Vintage – the year the Reef Credit was generated, specifically the date the Reef Credit was issued.

Verifier – an accredited and independent person or organisation approved by the Secretariat within the requirements of the Reef Credit Standard and the Verifier Application Procedure.

Verification – the independent assessment by a Verifier of the Pollutant reductions and/ removals for a specific Monitoring Period.

Verification Report – the written report of the Verifier prepared in accordance with the Reef Credit Standard and Project Application and Crediting Procedure.