



ENVOMARK Grazing Land Management (GLM) Methodology GUIDE

Approved under the
Australasian Catchment
Water Improvement Standard
(ACWIS)



July 2026

Purpose of the Grazing Land Management Methodology Guide (GLM Guide)

The Grazing Land Management Methodology Guide (the Guide) summarises the rationale, principles, overall governance and various elements that operationalise the Method under the Australasian Catchment Water Improvement Standard (ACWIS).

What is the Australasian Catchment Water Improvement Standard

Water quality degradation across Australasia's catchments is a growing concern, threatening ecosystems, communities, and industries. The 2024 State of the Environment Report highlights declining inland water quality due to pollution, land use pressures, and climate change. These challenges demand innovative, scalable solutions that go beyond traditional regulation and funding models.

The Australasian water improvement Scheme, delivered through the Australasian Catchment Water Improvement Standard (ACWIS), and developed by Eco-Markets Australia (EMA), responds to this need by introducing a market-based mechanism to incentivise pollutant reduction activities. These initiatives build on five years of experience administering the Reef Credit Scheme and aim to expand measurable water quality improvements across diverse catchment settings.

The Scheme enables the generation of water improvement Credits, which represent verified, additional reductions in pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, or other catchment-specific contaminants. These credits are quantified using approved methodologies, independently audited, and tracked via a secure registry. This structure ensures transparency, integrity, and scalability, making the Scheme suitable for voluntary and compliance markets. The naming conventions for these Credits (such as Reef Credits) reflect the particular identity (personality) of the defined catchment setting in which the Credit is generated and for which responsibility for the water improvement benefit may be claimed. Credit naming conventions will be determined by the Secretariat to manage market administration and investor demand.

The development of ACWIS aligns with national frameworks such as the National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS) and regional water quality improvement plans (WQIPs). It supports delivery of pollutant reduction targets and water quality objectives, while also contributing to broader sustainability goals, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Refer to the Australasian Catchment Water Improvement Guide for the rationale, principles, overall governance and various elements that operationalise of the Australasian water improvement Scheme.

Grazing Land Management Methodology

The Grazing Land Management Methodology (GLM Method) and Explanatory Statement, approved under the Australasian Catchment Water Improvement Standard (ACWIS), through the ENVOMARK Value Nature Framework is available on the EMA Website.

The GLM Method provides a framework for reducing and measuring fine sediment (FS) runoff from hillslope erosion in rural grazing landscapes. It uses the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) to estimate sediment losses and quantify improvements resulting from better grazing land management practices.

By improving ground cover, particularly before periods of intense rainfall, landholders can reduce soil erosion and sediment runoff into waterways. The method generates measured, quantified and third-party verified water quality improvements, which are converted into high-integrity ENVOMARK Credits, creating a financial incentive for landholders to implement practices that improve water quality and catchment health.

To ensure that measured improvements are genuinely due to management actions rather than natural seasonal or climate variability, the method incorporates Dynamic Reference Cover Modelling (DRCM). This approach helps distinguish project-driven changes in ground cover from normal environmental fluctuations, increasing confidence in the calculated sediment reductions and resulting credits.

Project Crediting Period is 25 years

In-scope Activities

- Matching stocking to forage budgets;
- Rotational grazing and wet season spelling, 'periods of rest';
- Infrastructure investment, i.e., fencing and water;
- Land remediation, i.e., pasture and native vegetation management, weed control, feral animal control; or
- Any intervention undertaken to increase ground cover described in the GLM Plan.

Activities NOT eligible

- Irrigation, including pasture irrigation;
- Broad-scale clearing of woody vegetation;
- Activities identified as excluded activities under the ACWIS Standard.

Stacking Credits Projects may generate other forms of environmental credits, such as biodiversity, carbon or renewable energy certificates provided the rules and requirements of each Scheme are adhered to and all eligibility and additionality requirements are satisfied.

Independent Audit and Credit Issuance where outcomes are measured following rainfall events and Credits are issued following third-party verification of Monitoring Period Reports.



Clean Energy Regulator is assessing approval to stack ENVOMARK Credits generated through the GLM Methodology with Australian Carbon Credit Units generated through the Soil Carbon Methodology.

Qualifying activities for Graziers

To qualify for ENVOMARK water improvement Credits, graziers must implement a series of measurable activities aimed at reducing fine sediment loads entering waterways of a defined catchment setting, meeting eligibility requirements of the GLM Method and the ACWIS. The following steps outline the action to generate ENVOMAR Credits under the GLM Method.



Market Participants

Participant	Role
Project Proponents	Person or Persons that has overall control and responsibility to carry out the Project and to whom water improvement Credits may be issued.
Project Developer	Organisation or business able to undertake Projects on behalf of the landholder under a Service Agreement. Also known as Brokers or Environmental Service Providers.
Buyers	Include any public or private entity that purchases ENVOMARK Credits. Buyers may purchase Credits to meet regulatory obligations, subject to any relevant regulatory agency requirements, or to measure progress toward environmental goals for ESG, TCFD or managed risk.
Verifiers	An accredited and independent person or organisation approved by the Secretariat within the requirements of the ACWIS and the Verifier Application Procedure. They confirm that water improvement Credits are calculated accurately and maintained to the appropriate standard throughout the life of the water improvement Project.
Eco-Markets Australia and Secretariat	Water improvement Scheme is independently administered by Eco-Markets Australia (EMA). EMA is governed by a Board of Directors, with the day to-day administration of the Scheme delegated to the Secretariat. The Secretariat manages validation, registration, verification, and Credit certification and issuance processes.

How to get involved

1. Need more information
2. Interested in onboarding a Project
3. Want to talk to a Project developer
4. Interested in buying ENVOMARK Credits
5. Access the ACWIS, GLM Method or Registry

Contact Eco-Markets Australia:
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