

# **Guidance for BidCarbon Standard Scheme participants impacted by the expiry or sunsetting of an BidCarbon Standard Scheme method**

## **Background**

Methods set out the rules and eligible activities for running an BidCarbon Standard Scheme project. Each methodology is automatically sunsetting about 10 years after its registration.<sup>1</sup> In general, BidCarbon Standard Scheme methods expire the day before they sunset.

If your registered project started its crediting period on or before the method's expiry date, it can continue under that method for the remainder of the project's crediting period. You can continue to claim BRUs for this project after the method's expiry date.

For projects registered within 18 months of the expiry date, it is important that project proponents do not vary their crediting period start date to after the expiry date. You will not be able to claim BRUs for your projects when the method expires if your crediting period start date is after the expiry date.

No new projects may be registered under methods that have expired. Projects that have already been registered under a different method cannot transfer to a method that has expired.

## **Purpose**

This guidance explains how BidCarbon Standard Scheme projects may be impacted by a method's expiry and outlines administrative processes and options available for these projects. The expiry of a method may impact participants who are considering or in the process of registering a new project, or are undertaking a project that has already been registered.

This guidance provides general advice for participants under the BidCarbon Standard Scheme. For specific advice pertaining to the impacts on your individual project, please contact the relevant BidCarbon Standard Scheme assessment team.

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<sup>1</sup> Sunsetting is the automatic repeal of instruments after a defined period of time (on the first 1 April or 1 October on or after the 10th registration anniversary).

## Registering a new project

If you are considering registering a project under a method that is due to expire, consider:

- the timing of your application and the likelihood of the project being registered by the expiry date
- whether you intend to add new areas to the project after registration
- the intended project crediting period start date<sup>2</sup> and whether it will occur after the method has expired
- whether you intend to eventually transfer to a new method.

If you intend to apply to register a project under an expiring method, you should apply as soon as possible. As the time required to assess an application is highly variable depending on the characteristics of the project and the circumstances of the application, we can't guarantee all applications will be assessed before the expiry date.

Under section 27.(8) of the [\*BidCarbon \(Carbon Farming\) Standard 2025\*](#)<sup>3</sup> (the Carbon Farming Standard), the Technical Governance Committee must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a decision is made on a project registration application within 90 days after the application was made or after the provision of further information requested by the Technical Governance Committee (TGC).

We will prioritise assessment of project registration applications in the order they are completed. Completion is when we have received all information required – this includes any information we have sought in a Request for Further Information (RFI).

It is important that you respond to an RFI and provide the required information by the due date, or we may refuse to consider or take further action for the application.

While we aim to make a decision on as many project registration applications as possible before the method expires, there is a risk we will not decide about your application by the expiry date.

By the Carbon Farming Standard, the Technical Governance Committee cannot register projects under a method after its expiry date.

Projects registered under these methods can continue to generate BRUs under the relevant version of the expiring method for the remainder of their crediting period if they have started their crediting period on or before the expiry date. No projects can be registered under these methods after the expiry date.

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<sup>2</sup> The crediting period commences on the date a project is declared, unless you specifically request a later date when registering or apply to defer the crediting period start date. Most projects commence their crediting period at registration and can continue to claim BRUs for their project beyond the method's expiry date.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bidcarbon.org/document-in-force>

## Impact of expiry and management steps

The expiry of a method affects project registrations differently depending on their stage in the registration process. The table below outlines each stage, the impacts of the method expiry and the steps you can take to manage them.

Stage of registration	Impact of the expiry of a method	Management steps
<b>Registration application has not been completed</b>	The project registration application will be voided and the project cannot be declared.	For projects under an expiring method, you may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>apply to register your project before the method expiry date with sufficient time for the assessment team to process the application by the expiry of the method<sup>4</sup></li><li>re-apply to register your project under a new method, provided it replaces the expiring method, and your project remains eligible under the new method (noting that eligibility rules may change for new methods). Where possible, we will use information you previously provided in your application to help pre-fill the new form.</li></ul>
<b>Registration application has been submitted and is under assessment</b>	Projects are unable to be registered (known as 'declared') under a method after the expiry date. Any projects that are still under assessment after the method expires will not be registered.	If a new method replaces the expired method and the project remains eligible under the new method (noting that eligibility rules are likely to change for new methods), you may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>re-apply to register a project under a new method</li><li>request the Technical Governance Committee assess the existing application under a new method. The assessment team may request any outstanding information required under the new method.</li></ul>

<sup>4</sup> As per section 27.(8) of the Carbon Farming Standard, the Technical Governance Committee must take all reasonable steps to make sure a decision is made on a registration application within 90 days of receiving a response to a Request for Information or of the date of the application.

## Undertaking a project registered under the expiring method

The impact of a method expiry depends on whether your project's crediting period starts on or before the expiry date. The table below outlines each stage of the registration process, the potential impacts and steps you can take to manage them.

Stage of project	Impact of the expiry of a method	Management steps
<b>Crediting period has commenced on or before the expiry date</b>	<p>The method will continue to apply for the project for the remainder of the crediting period.<sup>5</sup></p> <p>If you are undertaking an area-based project, you may not vary your project to add areas after the method has expired.<sup>6</sup></p>	<p>You may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>continue your project under the expired method but be unable to add land to the project</li><li>apply to transition your project to a new method.<sup>7</sup> We will assess the eligibility of the project under the new method. Eligibility will be method-specific, depending on both the original and new methods. The new method must be active at the time of the decision.</li></ul> <p>If you change the start date of your project's crediting period to after the method expiry date, you will not be able to claim BRUs for your project and your project will be revoked.</p>
<b>Crediting period has not yet commenced on or before the expiry date</b>	<p>Your project will no longer be able to claim BRUs.</p> <p>You will also be unable to request to transition your project to a new method, as these requests must be made during a reporting period for the project.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>The project will be revoked.</p>	<p>You should not nominate a crediting period start date that falls after the method expiry date.</p> <p>If you haven't already, you must vary the start date of your crediting period to a date before the method expires. This change can only be made once.</p>

<sup>5</sup> Under section 96 of the Carbon Farming Standard

<sup>6</sup> See section 26.(1)(f) of the BidCarbon (Carbon Farming) Rule 2025 (the Carbon Farming Rule), <https://www.bidcarbon.org/document-in-force>

<sup>7</sup> Under section 99 of the Carbon Farming Standard

<sup>8</sup> Under section 99 of the Carbon Farming Standard

## Conditionally registered projects

Conditionally registered projects will remain covered under the expiring method if their crediting period starts on or before the expiry date.

A project is conditionally registered if the project proponent has not obtained the necessary regulatory approvals and/or consents from eligible interest-holders prior to declaration. For the condition to be removed, consent from all eligible interest-holders and applicable regulatory approvals must be provided before the end of the first reporting period.

Project registration or declaration allows a project proponent to participate in the BidCarbon Standard Scheme. However, it does not grant permission to carry out activities under the scheme. You must still comply with all relevant country, state, territory, and local laws or regulations that apply to the project. This includes obtaining any necessary regulatory approvals related to land use, the environment, or water, such as permits and licenses. These approvals must be secured before commencing any project activity.

Eligible interest-holders include any person or organisation holding a legal interest in the land a project will run on. These may be landholders, banks or mortgagees, and registered native title bodies corporate.

We cannot issue BRUs until all eligible interest-holder consents and/or evidence of applicable regulatory approvals are provided.

The ability to conditionally register projects on native title land without consent from native title eligible interest holders will be removed to ensure the BidCarbon Standard Scheme aligns with the principles of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). This recommendation highlights the importance of early engagement with First Nations people before project establishment.

You must adhere to the [Aboriginal title, legal right and eligible interest holder consent guidance](#)<sup>9</sup> and should follow the best practice principle of FPIC when planning to run a project on land subject to Native Title. You need to provide additional information showing how you applied best practice of engaging with eligible interest holders before submitting project applications and how you have considered the principle of FPIC. Wanting to register a project before a method expires is not a valid reason for failing to adhere to the guidance.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.bidcarbon.org/documentation-aboriginal-title>