



CERTIFICATION SCORE

Financial reward for maintaining and building higher levels of natural capital condition will be through certification and an AgCarE score against 10 reporting categories that includes the following factors that are scored and tallied for each property.

Sustainable carbon property plan

01

Property management planning at a 15+ year scale that considers long-term holistic landscape management, business management options, and that outlines management actions that build natural capital.

Remnant vegetation

02

Bio-condition scoring of regional ecosystems against known benchmarks and historic evidence of vegetation extent and configuration i.e. Pre-clearing or at European settlement (1788).

Non-Remnant vegetation on modified landscapes

03

Metrics of vegetation on non-remnant grazing farmland or modified landscapes.

Soil condition

04

Recognition of methodologies that measure maintenance and improvement of soil carbon sequestration and soil health attributes

Biodiversity

05

Measuring actions to maintain and restore biodiversity, including management of wildlife corridors, nature refuges, pests, weeds, and bio-security.



Runoff and water quality

06

Measuring sediment load and suspended loads coming off property.

Stock

07

Herd management and benchmarking against regional averages that reduce methane emissions, principally through earlier age of turnoff and increased fertility.

High value agriculture

08

Measuring carbon sequestration and losses in developed farming and cultivation operations (including input-output recording of chemical use and harvested material).

Energy savings

09

Measuring energy use and efforts to reduce emissions, including remote monitoring, solar power, diesel reduction, efficient machinery.

Social education and research

10

Recognising landholder participation in capacity building activities and peer interactions. This also includes consideration of social wellbeing and mental health benefits that are generated from healthy landscapes

Using the 10 categories above, a landowner will develop an AgCarE score as an 'on-farm' natural capital audit in which condition of assets is assessed. This is the basis on which the landowner may be paid or be eligible for improved finance arrangements.

Initially, only those above a threshold level will likely qualify. If rating improves over time, then landowners may receive payments or improved finance conditions on a sliding scale.

In most cases, the higher the number of categories, the higher the overall rating of the farm or management area.