



## **REVIEW OF THE EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND 2020: COVER SHEET FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS**

### **Contact Details**

Name of Organisation: Tweed Shire Council

Name of Contact, Role: Tracey Stinson, Director Sustainable Communities & Environment

Contact Phone Number: 02 6670 2430

Contact Email: [tstinson@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tstinson@tweed.nsw.gov.au)

Date of submission: 15 May 2020

### **Submission Instructions**

The Authority encourages submissions from organisations and individuals on all issues relevant to this review by **20 May 2020**. We have identified key areas of focus in the consultation paper.

Your contributions are valued greatly by the Authority and will inform the Authority's final review report on the legislation, which is due by 31 December 2020.

The Authority will also talk to stakeholders to complement the written submissions.

Submissions can be made:

**via email**      [submission@climatechangeauthority.gov.au](mailto:submission@climatechangeauthority.gov.au)

**via post**      Submissions  
Climate Change Authority  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Contacts**

Should you require further information about making a submission please contact the Authority on freecall 1800 475 869 or via email at [submission@climatechangeauthority.gov.au](mailto:submission@climatechangeauthority.gov.au).

### **Confidentiality and publication**

**Your submission may be published.**

Submissions not marked as confidential may be published on the Climate Change Authority's website. The Authority welcomes submissions made in a respectful manner and while the Authority values public consultation highly and seeks to be transparent, it is under no obligation to publish submissions it receives and reserves the right not to publish submissions on its website that raise legal or other concerns.

For submissions made by individuals, all personal details other than your name and the state or territory in which you reside will be removed from your submission before it is published.

Please do not include information about third parties of a private nature unless you have permission to do so.

If any part of a submission should be treated as confidential, please provide two versions of the submission, one with the confidential information removed for publication. If you choose not to use this cover sheet and wish your submission to remain confidential then the document should be clearly marked as confidential.

Do you want this submission to be treated as confidential?  Yes  No

Do you understand the information provided about confidentiality and publication?

Yes  No

Signature of submitter:



---

**Tracey Stinson**  
Director Sustainable Communities & Environment

**Date: 15 May 2020**

Council Reference: Climate Change  
Your Reference:



Customer Service | 1300 292 872 | (02) 6670 2400

15 May 2020

[tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au)



PO Box 816  
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Please address all communications  
to the General Manager

ABN 90 178 732 496

Climate Change Authority  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [submissions@climatechangeauthority.gov.au](mailto:submissions@climatechangeauthority.gov.au)

To Whom It May Concern

---

## 2020 Review of the Emissions Reduction Fund

Tweed Shire Council wishes to commend the recent work of the Climate Change Authority, particularly the *Towards a climate policy toolkit: Special Review of Australia's climate goals and policies* and in this review of the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).

Council is committed to build a long term and durable solution to Australia's climate change challenge.

Council is also aligned in our shared desire to support regions and communities to position for low-carbon industries, technologies and opportunities and to encourage greater availability of carbon credits for the land use and agriculture sectors.

We also seek to strengthen the ecosystems we depend on, especially those with high carbon storage potential such as coastal wetlands and mangroves.

In the current review of opportunities for enhancing outcomes from the ERF, officers from Council's Sustainability & Environment programs recommend:

- Reducing the cost of compliance and measurement

The scale of soil carbon related testing costs and limited market (and therefore high cost) of accredited testing providers has been a significant barrier to local farmers participating in ERF auctions.

- Sharing investment and project development

The program seems to be missing the opportunity to encourage more climate resilience and carbon reduction opportunities throughout the land use sector in Australia. Disappointingly, there has been no take up of revegetation or agriculture projects in the Tweed.

To address this Council recommends complementary support to encourage greater engagement and competitiveness in ERF auctions, such as:

1. Replicating the design and advice stage of the Queensland Land Restoration Fund, which offers up to a \$10,000 rebate for advisers to work with landholders to develop carbon farming projects that provide environmental benefits.
  2. Offering one-off funding for each Federal electorate for at least one abatement project, similar to other Federal grants available but focussed on emissions reduction.
  3. Scoping/describing what each electorate's lowest cost abatement opportunities would be to attract aggregators or participants.
- Local government partnerships

Council's close interface with the local community, particularly with rural landholders through Council's Sustainable Agriculture and private land conservation programs, offers a great opportunity to enable greater take up of effective carbon reduction programs for this sector. Adequate long term funding is needed to build capacity for extension services in this sector.

Council supports the review in strengthening the potential role that the ERF can play in future economic recovery efforts. Greater project development support, greater funding availability, and stronger weighting of the flow on economic benefits of ERF projects are recommended to achieve this objective.

The rapid response to COVID-19 has demonstrated governments' ability to move quickly in response to a crisis. Council hopes this lesson can be applied to our response to climate change at all levels of government.

Yours faithfully



**Tracey Stinson**  
Director Sustainable Communities and Environment