

# Session 10

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Translating international commitments into national policy, regulations and management plans

# The Australian Experience

What are the policy frameworks relevant to blue carbon in your country?

- **Nature Positive Plan 2022: Nature Repair Markets**
- National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021
- **National Environmental Economic Accounts Strategy 2018**
- Sustainable Ocean Plan, 100% by 2025
- Strategy for Nature, roadmap to 2030
- National Landcare Program
- Threatened Species Strategy 2021-31
- **Blue Carbon Conservation, Restoration and Accounting Program**



# Nature repair market: part of the Nature Positive Plan



- Establishing a national voluntary nature repair market, to support landholders to restore and protect nature
- Make it easier for companies and others to invest in nature repair and to drive biodiversity improvements across Australia
- Open to all landholders including First Nations people, farmers and conservation groups
- Currently consulting on the exposure draft legislation



Landholders do projects that support biodiversity



Can sell outcomes to buyers, without selling land



Certainty around outcomes and delivery

# Environmental-Economic Accounts Program

## National Strategy and Action Plan for Environmental-Economic Accounting - 2018

- Collaboratively developed by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and the ABS
- \$22.9 million over 5 years
- Land, waste and ecosystems
- First national ocean/ecosystem account – blue carbon ecosystems

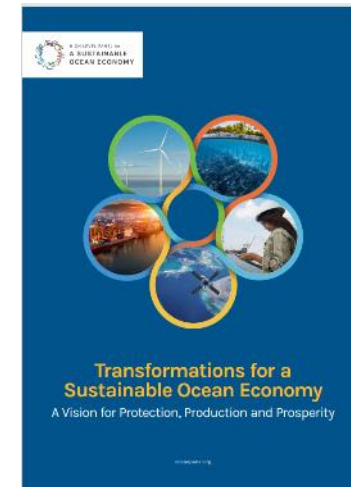
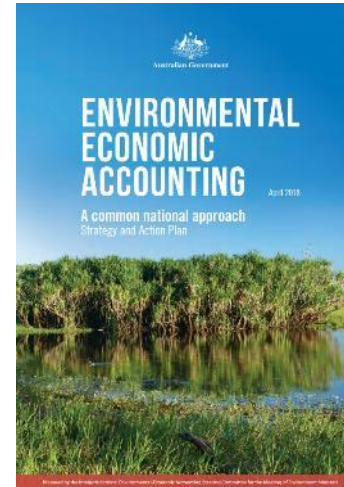
## High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy - 2019

- \$600,000 over 3 years
- Domestic – Geographe pilot
- International capacity building – Samoa ocean waste pilot

## Ocean Leadership Package - 2021

\$31.7 million over 4 years

- \$30.6 million – blue carbon restoration and accounts
- \$1.1 million – national roll out of ocean accounts





Australian Government

## KEY FINDINGS: AUSTRALIA'S FIRST NATIONAL OCEAN ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNT BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS - MANGROVES, SEAGRASS & SALTMARSH



### MANGROVES

Over 1 million hectares of mangroves in Australia, which is over 500,000 Melbourne Cricket Grounds

Australia's mangroves store over 240 million tonnes of carbon

Provide storm surge protection to over 16,000 kilometres of coastline

Protects over 85,000 homes and 175,000 people in Australia

It would cost about \$196 billion to replace this coastal protection service with a seawall



### SEAGRASS

There's 2-3 million hectares of seagrass in Australia

Australia's seagrass sequestered about 5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2021

32% of Australia's seagrass meadows are located outside state boundaries (in Commonwealth waters), mainly in the Torres Strait

About 60% of the country's seagrass is found across Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland



### SALTMARSH

There are over 1 million hectares of saltmarsh in Australia

Australia's saltmarsh stores over 275 million tonnes of carbon

Saltmarsh protects about 3,600 kilometres of coastline from storm surge

Protects Over 150,000 people and 88,000 homes in Australia

It would cost over \$41 billion to replace this service with a seawall



Australia's mangroves and saltmarsh provide storm surge protection to over 19,000 kilometres of coastline and protect over 149,000 homes and 280,000 people from storm surge in Australia



The cost of replacing this coastal protection with a seawall is over \$225 billion

# Blue Carbon Conservation, Restoration and Accounting Program

- Under the Australian Government's \$100 million Oceans Leadership Package
- 30.6 million will be invested from 2021 to 2025 domestic and overseas
  - Five demonstration restoration projects in Australia, representing a variety of ecosystem types and socio-economic settings
  - Project-level EEA measuring and valuing benefits to climate, biodiversity and people
  - Includes a 'how to' guide for project-level EEA



# Demonstration restoration projects

- Blue Heart – Blue Carbon Wetland Restoration, Queensland
- Mungalla - Blue Carbon Project Tidal Restoration, Queensland
- Gulf St Vincent Seagrass Restoration Project, South Australia
- Richmond Farm - Cool Climate Tidal Marsh, Tasmania
- SA Blue Carbon Project – Tidal Marsh, South Australia



# Blue Heart Wetland Restoration Project

Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Restoration of former farming land to coastal wetlands with benefits for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, flood mitigation, recreation and First Nations engagement.





# Mungalla Blue Carbon Project

Ingham, Queensland

Tidal restoration of former cattle grazing property with benefits for Indigenous heritage, ecotourism, Great Barrier Reef water quality, and bird and marine biodiversity.



# Gulf St Vincent Seagrass Restoration Project

Port Gawler, South Australia

Seagrass restoration project with benefits for marine diversity, sediment stabilisation, shoreline protection and nutrient processing.



# NRM South Richmond Farm Restoration Project

Pitt Water-Orielton Lagoon,  
Tasmania

Cool climate tidal marsh restoration with benefits for coastal resilience, biodiversity, recreational fisheries and tourism.



**Richmond Farm - Tasmania**

# South Australian Blue Carbon Restoration Project

Upper Gulf St Vincent, South Australia

Tidal marsh restoration with benefits for biodiversity, social and cultural values.



**AIBS Blue Carbon**

# Contact us

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