

CPRS - Northmore Gordon

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CPRS

CPRS stands for Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, as defined on our glossary page. However, it is important to note that the CPRS is not currently an active scheme in Australia. Understanding historical scheme names and structures helps distinguish between past policy frameworks and the current regulatory environment, which includes schemes such as the ACCU (Australian Carbon Credit Unit) scheme, the Renewable Energy Target, and state-based energy efficiency programs.

Related guidance

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What does CPRS stand for?

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Why is understanding the CPRS relevant to current carbon management in Australia?

While the CPRS itself is no longer operational, understanding its historical context is relevant because it demonstrates the evolution of Australian carbon policy and regulatory frameworks. Current schemes like the ACCU scheme and Renewable Energy Target represent the contemporary approach to managing emissions and renewable energy. Our glossary maintains reference to historical schemes to help clients and project teams understand the regulatory landscape and avoid confusion between superseded and active programs when planning carbon management or certificate strategies.

How does the CPRS relate to other carbon and energy certificates that Northmore Gordon covers?

The CPRS, though historical, sits within the broader family of environmental certificates and schemes that we describe. Current instruments include ACCUs (Australian Carbon Credit Units), ESCs (Energy Savings Certificates), LGCs (Large-scale Generation Certificates), STCs (Small-scale Technology Certificates), and VEECs (Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates). Each instrument belongs to its own program with distinct eligibility, calculation and retirement rules. Understanding the progression from historical schemes to current instruments helps project teams select the correct pathway for their activity and avoid applying obsolete eligibility criteria.

What is Northmore Gordon's role in helping clients navigate certificate schemes?

We provide environmental certificate services including project registration, certificate creation, trading support, and commercial assessment. We help clients determine which approved methods and evidence establish eligible activities, manage instrument ownership and retirement, and understand scheme-specific requirements. For clients considering carbon or energy projects, our expertise helps distinguish between different certificate types, assess activity eligibility under current schemes, and develop evidence strategies proportionate to the instrument pathway chosen.

Where should an organization start if it is considering carbon or renewable energy instruments?

Begin by identifying the activity type, location, and intended outcome. We recommend submitting a project brief that describes the site, equipment, proposed intervention, and the claim to be supported. Our services connect emissions information with engineering and procurement decisions. An initial assessment determines which current scheme—whether ACCU, renewable certificates, energy-efficiency certificates, or another instrument—aligns with the activity, timing, and evidence available. This assessment avoids spending effort on historical schemes or incompatible pathways.

What key principles should guide the selection of a certificate instrument?

According to our environmental certificate guidance, three questions establish the correct instrument: Does the activity meet the particular scheme and method? Who owns the environmental attributes and what claim will their retirement support? Which approved method and evidence establish eligible abatement? The instrument family depends on whether the activity qualifies for energy-efficiency certificates, renewable-energy attributes, or carbon credits. A project's technology alone does not establish eligibility; the applicable scheme rules, timing, and evidence requirements must be assessed together.

How does Northmore Gordon distinguish between different environmental instruments in its advice?

We maintain that each instrument—ACCU, VEEC, ESC, PRC, STC, LGC, and REGO—belongs to its own program and should not be treated as identical units. We advise clients not to compare their quantities as though they were equivalent or to add them as a single total benefit. Each scheme has its own responsible authority, assessment pathway, eligibility criteria, and calculation basis. Our role is to help clients identify which instrument applies to their specific activity and to gather the evidence required by that scheme's rules.

What information should be prepared before requesting Northmore Gordon's assistance with a certificate project?

Prepare the location, equipment and capacity, existing and proposed operating conditions, project timeline, and ownership arrangements. Identify any prior installation, nomination, or certificate claim. Provide records that distinguish estimates from measured data. A proposed evidence schedule should identify what must be recorded before works, during installation, and after commissioning, including who gathers and verifies evidence. The exact requirements come from the governing scheme, so clarity on current activity status, prior arrangements, and available documentation helps scope the assessment proportionately.