

information sheet

SUSTAINABLE LAND USES

Sustainable options key

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This toolkit identifies environmentally sustainable land uses that Local Aboriginal Land Councils (**LALCs**) and Aboriginal landowners may want to consider for their land. These include:

- Carbon emissions schemes;
- Hydropower schemes;
- Establishment of carbon sinks;
- Wind power schemes;
- Solar power schemes;
- Biofuel cultivation;
- Conservation schemes;
- BioBanking; and
- Ecotourism.

Please note: While all care has been taken in the preparation of these information sheets, they are not a substitute for legal advice in individual cases. The content of these information sheets are current as of July 2011.

This information sheet provides a sustainable land use option decision key to aid Aboriginal landowners in identifying sustainable land uses that may be suitable to their properties. It should be noted that the specific suitability of any parcel of land to a particular sustainable land use option is likely to vary. As such it is recommended that all landowners undertake a broad assessment of options based on the specific characteristics of their land.

Before undertaking any development or land use of their land, LALCs should consult with their community members, local council and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (**NSWALC**). It is important that all activities undertaken are legal, consistent with *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) and will lead to the improvement of Aboriginal communities. In addition, local planning requirements need to be considered and early consultation with the relevant local council is recommended. In particular, zoning will be a key consideration for LALCs as it is important to understand the zoning of land where the development or land use

is proposed to be and what use that zoning permits. For more information about zoning, see the NSWALC Planning Fact Sheets available from www.alc.org.au.

It is noted that many LALCs and landowners may currently undertake a range of practices on the land (for example cultural, agricultural and commercial practices and uses). Some of these practices will be complementary with a range of potential sustainable land use options, whereas others may not be. In the instance where land use options are complementary with existing practices or development then LALCs may wish to give strong consideration to adopting such options as a way of maximising the benefit received from the land. Where the sustainable land use options are not complementary with existing land use or development, landowners should carefully weigh up the costs and benefits associated with continuing current practices and those of switching to a more sustainable option.

In particular, landowners are encouraged to assess how sustainable their existing practices are. It may be that existing practices are more sustainable than other options, or that the environmental costs associated with switching land uses is too high to justify switching practices. The sustainable land use options identified within this toolkit do not consider every possible land use and landowners may want to suggest / share their own sustainability ideas with other Aboriginal landowners and LALCs.

The following decision making key asks a series of simple questions about the characteristics of your land. By answering the questions, you can identify sustainable land use options which may be suitable for your land. More information on each of the suitable options can be found in the relevant information sheet(s) which are included as part of this toolkit.

Decision making key to help identify appropriate sustainable land use options

Step	Option	Scenario	Land Owner Response
1	1a	My land is currently developed	Landowners should assess the value of their existing developments in comparison to other sustainable land use options
	1b	My land is currently undeveloped	Go To Step 2
2	2a	My land is currently being used by one or more activities	Landowners should assess the existing value of their land use in comparison to other land use options
	2b	My land is not currently being used by any activities	Go To Step 3
3	3a	My land has been largely cleared of native vegetation	Go To Step 4
	3b	My land retains a large amount of native remnant vegetation or regrowth	Go To Step 8
4	4a	A watercourse flows through my land	Go To Step 5
	4b	There are no permanent drainage lines on my land	Go To Step 7
5	5a	My land is fairly flat	Go To Step 6
	5b	My land is hilly and hard to access in places	Potential sustainable land uses include: small scale hydropower schemes; carbon sink establishment
	5c	My land is very hilly or exposed (e.g. contains cliffs and regional peaks)	Potential sustainable land uses include: wind power schemes
6	6a	The soils on site are fertile	Potential sustainable land uses include: biofuel cultivation; carbon sink establishment
	6b	The soils on site are not particularly fertile	Potential sustainable land uses include: solar power schemes
7	7a	My land is fairly flat	Potential sustainable land uses include: solar power schemes
	7b	My land is hilly and hard to access in places	Potential sustainable land uses include: carbon sink establishment
	7c	My land is very hilly or exposed (e.g. contains cliffs and regional peaks)	Potential sustainable land uses include: wind power schemes
8	8a	The vegetation present is high quality	Potential sustainable land uses include: conservation schemes; ecotourism
	8b	The vegetation present is medium quality	Potential sustainable land uses include: biobanking
	8c	The vegetation present is low quality	Potential sustainable land uses include: carbon sink establishment, biobanking