

# YARRA YARRA BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR AUSTRALIAN NATIVE REFORESTATION

## PROJECT BRIEF

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* is a multi-species native reforestation project located in Southwest Australia which is a global biodiversity hotspot. It removes 1.897 million tonnes of carbon in a region where over 90% of the woodland has been cleared.

The project was established on degraded, semi-arid agricultural land that no longer supported viable farming practices with the goal of returning the environment to its origins. We did this by planting up to 50 native tree and shrub species indigenous to the region, including provenance seed collected from the project properties. Seeds and seedlings are planted alongside fragmented remnant vegetation and nature reserves, with the design objective of restoring the project landscape to its natural condition of vegetation.

This project aims to remove existing carbon from the atmosphere today *and* to recreate a healthy and functioning landscape, restored after decades of habitat loss and degradation. This will become the new bush that reconnects to the Australian Outback. It is a legacy project which will strive to ensure the land is continually nurtured and improved.

Current and future plantings form part of the Corridor providing essential connectivity for birds and animals to transition through the landscape. It provides the habitat for food, nests and protection from predators. It also encourages native animals and plants that have vanished from the area or been pushed to the brink of extinction to return and breed. The significance and importance of welcoming back iconic threatened species such as Malleefowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Western Spiny-tailed Skink and the Woylie (Brush-tailed Bettong), as well as over 30 species of conservation-significant native plants, is immeasurable.

## THE YARRA YARRA BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

- \* Delivering climate benefits
- \* Promoting sustainable development
- \* Re-establishing and protecting the environment

## PROJECT FACTS

### LOCATION

Southwest Australia, Global Biodiversity Hotspot

### SCOPE

17,586 hectares (43,455 acres)

1.897M tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e sequestered carbon

### CERTIFICATION

Gold Standard VER

### ADDITIONALITY & PERMANENCE

in according with the Gold Standard Foundation rules

### 3rd PARTY VALIDATED

by EPIC Sustainability

### TRANSPARENCY

provided by Markit Environmental Registry "Australian Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Project"

### MARKETING MATERIAL

high resolution pictures and video available





BEFORE - OVER 90% CLEARED



AFTER - BIODIVERSE PLANTING OVER 2 YEARS

Trees are the world's single largest source of breathable oxygen and play a vital role in maintaining safe levels of carbon dioxide and addressing climate change. Replanting in the *Yarra Yarra Corridor* helps to sequester carbon dioxide, conserve soil and water, prevent salinity and protect and stabilise ground cover.

## PROJECT IMPACTS

### BIODIVERSITY

Conservation International, a world authority on biodiversity conservation, identified Southwest Australia as one of only 35 globally significant biodiversity hotspots. These are regions that have an exceptionally high number of plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world and account for 90% of all species on Earth. It is therefore imperative that these 'megadiverse' areas be protected to ensure their survival and restoration. The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* includes private and public lands which provide critical habitat for wildlife.

**Our baseline biodiversity survey conducted by ecological scientists discovered an amazing diversity of plant and animal species, identifying over 450 species.**

### COMMUNITY

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and their connection to 'country' underpins the organisation's cultural and environmental awareness, values and goals. The reforestation project has been welcomed by all stakeholders, especially the Traditional Owners who are participating in each stage.

The project also adds measurable environmental, social, economic and heritage benefits to the community. Employing over ten local First Peoples since project inception, Carbon Neutral employs two full-time First Nations people as part of promoting Aboriginal inclusion and participation.

Archaeological surveys have been conducted across the project and five aboriginal heritage sites have been registered with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Since 2008, more than \$16 million has been invested and up to 80 local businesses supported in the region.

### LEGAL PROTECTION

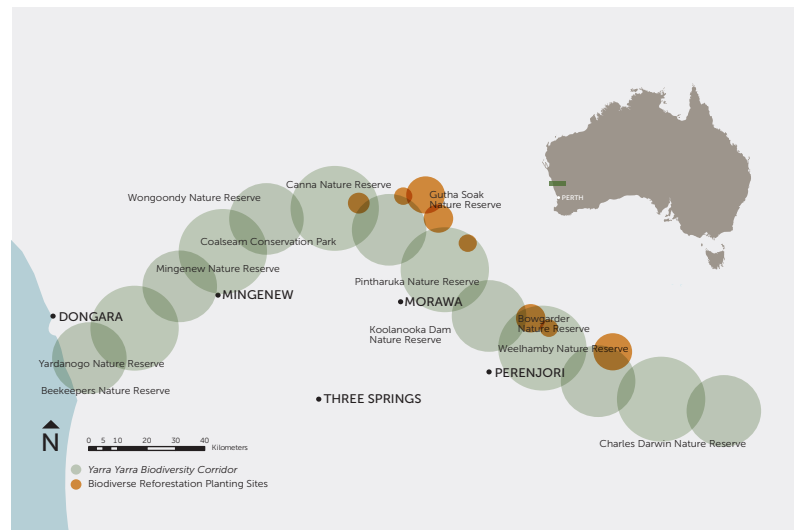
The trees are protected for **100 years** by a Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant registered on land titles.

### FIRE RISK

Protection strategies include geographic separation of projects, firebreaks and crash grazing to reduce weed burden. Insurance is held for 3 years after which eucalyptus woodland's natural adaptations survive though bushfire. Further, 20% of the net CO<sub>2</sub> fixation (251,400 tonnes) is being held as a buffer under Gold Standard compliance.

### VOLUNTARY EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS (VERs)

The Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Project is the first premium Gold Standard project in Australia and is certified to remove over 1.897M tonnes over 50 years.



## ABOUT THE PROJECT DEVELOPER

Since 2001 Carbon Neutral has established more than 22+ million trees with innovative large-scale reforestation projects based on carbon capture and biodiversity. The plantings are developed on degraded agricultural land.



Carbon Neutral proudly assists organisations minimise their impact on the environment by working with them to **measure**, **reduce** and **offset** their greenhouse gas emissions.