

# BIODIVERSE REFORESTATION CARBON OFFSETS



in the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor



Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere every day. This project is also helping to restore an environment. It enhances our shared natural capital with habitat restoration and land conservation and brings social and economic benefits.

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* plantings are located in the northern wheatbelt of Southwestern Australia. The region has an exceptionally high number of plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. It has been identified as one of 35 global biodiversity hotspots for wildlife and plants, and the first one identified in Australia.

The *Yarra Yarra Corridor* was once an area of vibrant woodlands. But since the arrival of Europeans in the early 1900s years ago, approximately 97% of the vegetation has been cleared for traditional farming practices.

Now, due to problem soils and a drying climate, parts of the landscape are not suitable for traditional agriculture. The loss of habitat has also caused native species to be under threat.

Planting trees and shrubs is part of a much larger vision. The goal is to link small patches of remaining vegetation and 12 nature reserves to create a green corridor to help restore ecosystems and preserve threatened and unique flora and fauna.

*Carbon Neutral assists organisations to measure, reduce and offset carbon emissions.*

*We are Australia's leading biodiverse reforestation 'carbon sink' developer. To date, over 30 million mixed native species trees and shrubs have been planted in the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor.*

*It is in the process of restoring 13,500 hectares of rural landscapes.*







Co-benefits of the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Project contribute to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Contribution to the positive mental health and well-being of indigenous communities.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Provision of job-specific training sessions and inductions for local employees.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Lowering salinity in both ground and surface waters over the project's life.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Creation of 400+ jobs, over 50 indigenous roles and more than 80 businesses have been engaged.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



At least 967,695 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e will be sequestered during the project's lifetime.

15 LIFE ON LAND



The biodiverse plantings of native trees and shrubs contains over 30 species of conservation significance.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Partnerships with 11 local and national organisations have been formed from the project.

Forests are key allies to combating climate change, as they absorb carbon, clean and cool the air, act as natural water pumps to sustain river flows, stabilise soils, recycle nutrients for agriculture and support habitats for wildlife.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### AUDIT & MEASUREMENT

Carbon measurements and projections are independently verified by a qualified third party. This ensures that 1 carbon credit = 1 tonne carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>-e).

The Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offset planting sites will, conservatively, sequester 120-180 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per hectare over 50 years.

To project how much CO<sub>2</sub> the trees will sequester (both above and below ground) at a given location over 50 years, scientifically developed allometrics have been applied. This methodology is in line with Gold Standard Foundations' Land Use and Forests (LUF) framework.

The Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offset projects are not registered under a formal certification framework.

### CLAIMING CARBON NEUTRALITY

Carbon Neutral sells Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets before full sequestration is realised. As it may be some years before actual carbon is sequestered, Carbon Neutral independently retires an equivalent number of verified carbon credits from an international project. This ensures that buyers can claim carbon offsetting and carbon neutrality.

Reforestation activities require significant upfront investment to cover land acquisition and planting costs. By purchasing Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets, you are helping to finance this ongoing planting program. Buyers can proudly promote their support of an Australian ecosystem restoration project.

### CARBON CREDIT REGISTRY

Unique serial numbers for Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets are issued to each buyer. All carbon credits sold are cancelled on an internal register to ensure there is no double-counting or double-selling. Our internal register is independently audited at least every five years.

### LAND TENURE AND 'PERMANENCE'

All projects in the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor have a Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant registered on the land title. The Carbon Covenant details land and tree management obligations.

For example, trees may not be cut down for 50 or 100 years. The carbon stored for the Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offset projects is 'locked up' for a period of 50 or 100 years as detailed in the Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant. Sequestration is regarded as permanent if it is maintained on a net basis for 100 years.

Livestock are excluded from planting sites for three years after planting, and thereafter only lightly grazed to avoid damage to trees and shrubs and allow natural generation in the inter-rows. This is as per the Carbon Covenant.

### MITIGATING FIRE RISK

Fire control measures include fire breaks, geographic separation of planting sites, insurance and light grazing of sheep to reduce fuel load.

Native tree plantings are self-regenerating. If a fire or other disturbance occurs, causing a decline in the amount of carbon stored, re-growth will be managed to allow the carbon stock to return to previously reported values.

### MONITORING & REPORTING

Each planting site is independently monitored and reported for health, survival and carbon pools at least twice in the first 5 years.

Planting Reports and Monitoring Reports are available on the Carbon Neutral website.

#### CARBON NEUTRAL

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