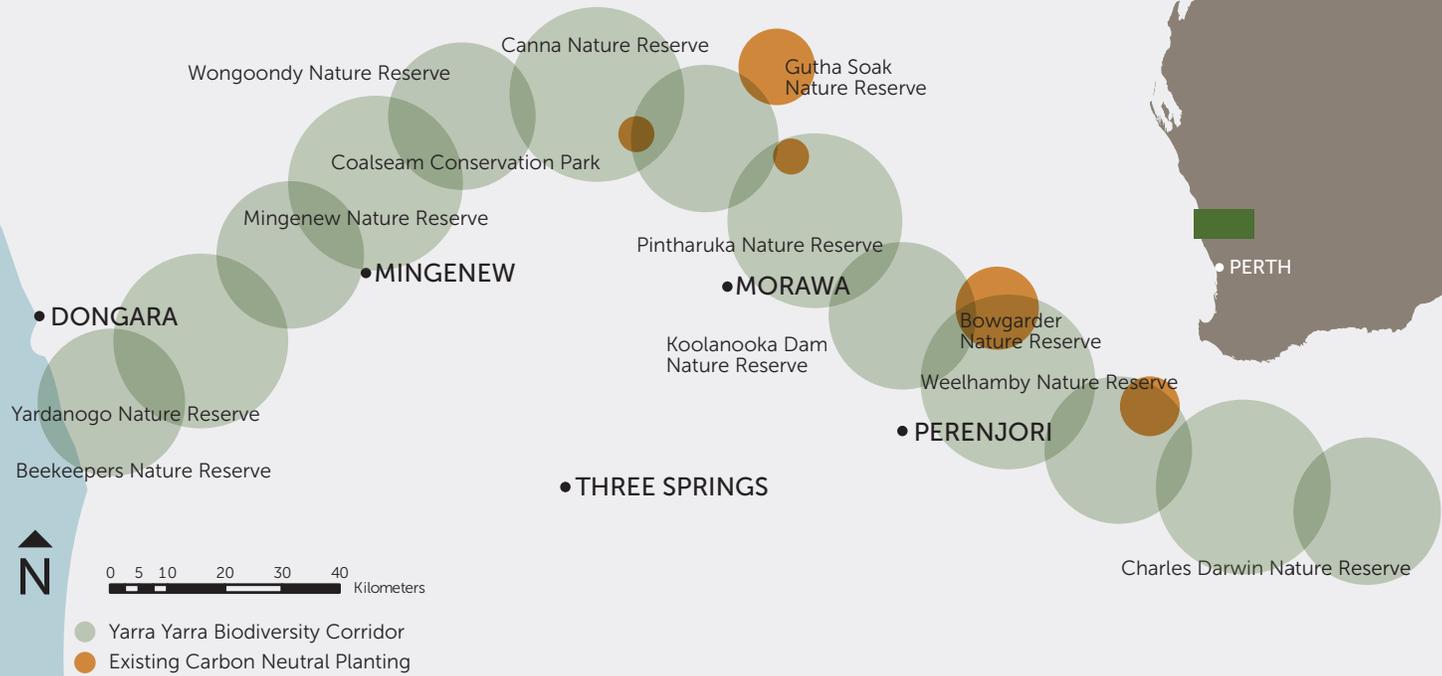


# BE PART OF AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST BIODIVERSE REFORESTATION CARBON SINK PROJECT



## YARRA YARRA BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR



## HOTSPOT

Conservation International, a world authority on biodiversity conservation, identified Southwest Australia as one of only two globally significant biodiversity hotspots in Australia. These are regions that have an exceptionally high number of plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Only 35 of these hotspots occur worldwide and they 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 Corridor includes private and public lands which provide critical habitat for wildlife.

## WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT

Native plants and animals thrive in large, well-connected patches of high quality habitat that meet their life cycle needs – food, shelter and reproduction. However, some reforesters plant only a single species on their land. Carbon Neutral plants a diverse range of native plant species that once grew in the area before it was cleared for farming and other uses. This helps to provide habitat or future forests and woodlands for our very special flora and fauna.

To date, Carbon Neutral has planted in the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor over 18 million, mixed native species trees and shrubs on over 9800 ha.



MAJOR MITCHELL'S COCKATOO

OUR WORK HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE RETURN OF NUMEROUS THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.



MALLEEFOWL



KARARA TECTICORNIA BULBOSA



GOLDEN WATTLE



THORNY DEVIL

## BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

About 90% of the northern Wheatbelt was cleared for agriculture from the early 1900s. This removed so much native habitat that many plant and animal species went extinct locally or regionally. Others, however, hung on in woodland and shrubland remnants usually on rocky ridges and commercially less productive upper valley slopes. We aim to reconnect these valuable remnants by planting trees, shrubs and ground cover at selected key sites, mostly non-productive farmland. This will help establish habitat stepping stones and

links for biodiversity to move and disperse through the landscape. By re-connecting drier inland habitats with their coastal counterparts, the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor will help protect and recover our endangered and declining woodland and shrubland fauna such as Malleefowl, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Crested Bellbird, Western Yellow Robin and Western Spiny-tailed Skink. This is Australia's largest revegetation project based on biodiversity and carbon capture.



## MEASURING BIODIVERSITY

Depending on planting sites, Carbon Neutral plants 20 to 30 different tree, shrub and ground cover species, predominantly drought-tolerant Eucalypts and woody-stemmed Acacias.

Carbon Neutral will measure and monitor flora and fauna diversity and density changes in the Yarra Yarra revegetation project over time against a baseline survey of the land before it was planted. The Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund has provided funding towards restoration and biodiversity monitoring.

## THE LIE OF THE LAND

The Yarra Yarra Corridor is located in Western Australia's northern agricultural region about 400 km north of Perth. The Corridor features diverse ancient landscapes, from heavily weathered forming sandplains to heavier more fertile red brown clay loams. It supports extensive woodlands of York gum and Salmon gum, much of which was cleared for agricultural purposes. The ancient Yarra Yarra drainage line flows intermittently from the east to the Yarra Yarra lakes near Three Springs. Most of the lakes and channels are saline, some naturally and some because of the massive clearing of the Wheatbelt which has led to rising hypersaline groundwater tables.



RIP AND SCALP



PLANTING TEAM



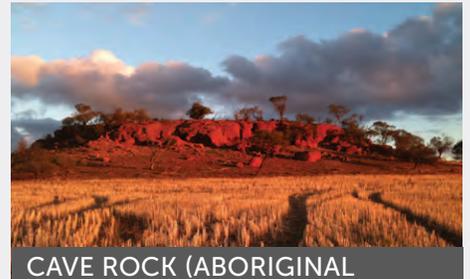
HAND PLANTING



HAND PLANTED SEEDLING



SEEDLING MIX



CAVE ROCK (ABORIGINAL HERITAGE)

## EVERYTHING TO GAIN

As well as enhancing biodiversity and sequestering greenhouse gas emissions, trees planted by Carbon Neutral contribute towards reducing soil salinity; saves and restores water quality; cuts soil and water erosion and provides windbreaks. Researchers have identified a correlation between widespread land clearing and less rainfall in Western Australia's South West region. This implies that reforestation may well have a positive effect on rainfall.



## PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

Carbon Neutral acknowledges the support from a number of stakeholders in its biodiverse restoration in the Yarra Yarra project: WWF, BirdLife Australia, Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund, Shire of Morawa, Shire of Perenjori, Bush Heritage, Department of Parks and Wildlife, NACC, Auscarbon, InSight Ecology and the Yarra Yarra Catchment Group. The project has and will continue to provide a number of socio-economic benefits to nearby communities. More than 80 local businesses are engaged so far for goods and services as a direct result of Carbon Neutral and its partners in the Yarra Yarra revegetation program. We acknowledge and thank Peter Waterhouse for the Major Mitchell's Cockatoos and Malleefowl images and Keith Lightbody for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoos image.

## MEASURING AND PROTECTING

On-ground measurement of carbon is based on detailed growth models using species specific allometric equations to reflect the amount of carbon stored in the forest. These measurements and sampling techniques are part of our methodology development under the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative. Carbon Neutral also contributes to CSIRO's project "CFI Methodology and Tool Development – Estimation of change in biomass carbon in complex woody systems". Every year for five years our planting sites will be monitored for health and survival. Monitoring reports will be posted on Carbon Neutral's website. The trees will be legally protected for 100 years by a Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant.



CARNABY'S COCKATOOS



NURSERY



DIRECT SEEDED PLANTLING

## ACT NOW

Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor products:

- Carbon offsets
- Plant-a-Tree Program

**CALL 1300 851 211 TODAY**

Carbon Neutral's Yarra Yarra plantings are helping to re-establish habitats for endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos



[www.carbonneutral.com.au](http://www.carbonneutral.com.au)

1300 851 211

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