

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

PLANT-A-TREE PROGRAM

Seller: Carbon Neutral Pty Ltd (Carbon Neutral)

ABN: 42 164 635 769

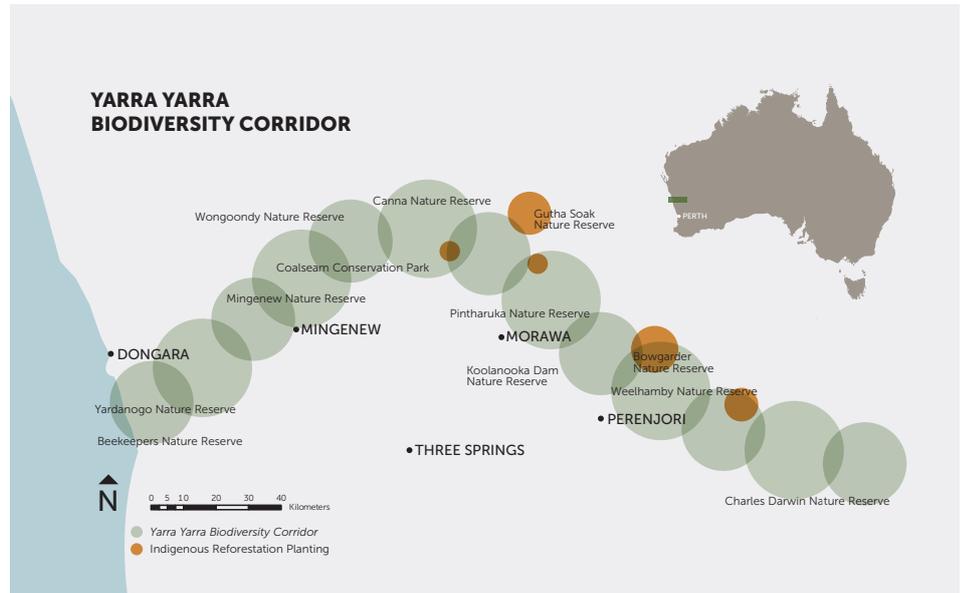
CARBON NEUTRAL

Carbon Neutral has in excess of 9,800 ha of genuine biodiverse plantings established for carbon offsetting. These projects are developed on degraded agricultural land in the Mid West of Western Australia and have more than 20 million native trees and shrubs that connect

valuable habitat and landforms. The Carbon Neutral group was the first company to issue Forestry Offset certificates under the former Greenhouse Friendly™ program and is a Registered Offset Entity under the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative.

YARRA YARRA BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

Current plantings, together with fragmented remnant vegetation, form part of a corridor which includes the Koolanooka Dam Nature Reserve, Bowgada Reserve and the Moonagin Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). This region is in a recognised *global biodiversity hotspot*, and the opportunity to permanently connect habitat corridors at this scale has unique and significant environmental benefits.



OBJECTIVES

To revegetate degraded farmland with a self-sustaining mixed species environmental planting, establishing plant communities which enhance and support local biodiversity. Environmental, social, economic and heritage outcomes will be achieved through complementary activities like beekeeping, bush tucker and eco-cultural tourism.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Trees planted on this site will help reduce soil salinity; provide windbreaks; enhance biodiversity; store carbon; restore habitat for native animals and maybe even stop a declining winter rainfall!

SOCIAL BENEFITS

Revegetation activities involves purchasing goods and services locally and employing local people. 10 first nation people employed to date.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Complementary activities like beekeeping, eco-cultural tourism, biodiversity offsets, sandalwood and bush tucker increase profitability to the region.

BIODIVERSITY VALUES AND CONNECTIVITY

The impact of our tree plantings on biodiversity values (flora and fauna) in this region will be assessed. This planting site sits adjacent to a further 3,500 ha of biodiverse carbon plantings.

HERITAGE BENEFITS

All known Aboriginal Heritage sites are registered on the WA Aboriginal Heritage Register and a full time Widi man is employed to reconnect to country and local Traditional Owners.

¹ABC Online: "UWA researches find correlation between land clearing and rainfall reduction" by Charlotte Hamlyn 25 November 2013



GUARANTEES

Carbon Neutral offers the following assurances to buyers under the Plant-a-Tree Program:

- Depending on time of purchase, trees purchased may have been planted, or will be planted next planting season
- Tree survival is guaranteed for 5 years, to the average minimum density, after which time the planting is regarded as established
- Fire insurance is held for a minimum 3 years, after which time the planting is self-generating
- Monitoring of tree health and survival is done bi-annually to Year 5, with the current report summary and photographs posted on the Carbon Neutral website

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

This is not a carbon offset product. Trees planted should sequester carbon on this site at approximately 150 to 200 tonnes CO₂-e per hectare over 100 years, but carbon will not be measured. As a rough 'rule of thumb', on this site, we estimate 10-15 trees and shrubs will sequester 1 tonne of CO₂-e. Growth and carbon storage will be most vigorous in the first 30 years.

LEGAL PROTECTION

The trees are protected for **100 years** by a *Carbon Right* and *Carbon Covenant* after establishment.

LANDSCAPE

The property has slightly elevated portions in the SW and central south areas – so the majority of the property is generally in a water-gaining position. Soils are red sandy loam, over clay loams, potentially with a hard pan. It is likely that moisture and roots will penetrate this layer. 25 soil samples were taken by hand auguring.

CLIMATE

Located within the Australian Bureau of Meteorology's Central West climatic region. Mediterranean climate being approximately 110 kms from the Indian Ocean. Average annual rainfall is around 330-350mm. Low pressure tropical rain-bearing depressions may occur in the January to April period and can bring 100-150mm of valuable summer rainfall.

PLANTING METHOD

Trees were alley-planted in 2012 by a combination of direct seeding hard seeds and hand planting seedlings on two scalped, deep ripped rows 3 metres apart on 10 metre centres.

AREA PLANTED

Net established area is 390 hectares (excluding firebreaks). This is subject to an independent survey.

SPECIES MIX

Species planted are predominantly drought-tolerant Eucalypts and woody-stemmed Acacias. The main direct seeded species include: *Acacia victoriae*, *A. murrayana*, *A. acuminata*, *A. ramulosa*, *A. anthocharea*, *A. assimilis*, *A. brumalis*, *A. colletiodies*, *A. coolgardiensis*, *A. daphnifolia*, *A. hemetilies*, *A. saligna*, *A. sibina*, some *Cassia* spp., *Atriplex nummularia*, *Atriplex amnicola*. Seedlings were hand planted along the rows at approximately 400 stems/hectare: *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (100 stems/ha), *Acacia saligna*, *Acacia murrayana* (300 stems/ha).

PLANTING DENSITY

Due to a combination of planting seed and seedlings across upper, mid and under-storey species, the resulting plant population or density is highly variable across the site. Due to a relatively high ratio of mixed *Acacia* species, a conservative minimum plant density of 1,650 stems per hectare has been adopted.

SANDALWOOD EXCLUSION

A small quantity of Australian Sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) has been established on the site. Sandalwood may be harvested. Both the host plant and the Sandalwood are excluded from the stem count for allocation to donors/buyers.

MANAGEMENT

The Carbon Neutral group maintains overall management. This includes health monitoring and fire control measures. Crash grazing of sheep will be undertaken as necessary to reduce the inter-row biomass fire burden.

FIRE RISK

Insurance cover for re-establishment during the first 3 years is held, after which time we expect a level of natural regeneration will occur in the event of fire.

MONITORING & REPORTING

The site is monitored bi-annually for health and survival for 5 years (to end of 2017). Monitoring reports will be posted on the Carbon Neutral website.

ACCOUNTABILITY & VERIFICATION

The site has been assessed by forester, Geoff McArthur of Ruthrmac Pty Ltd and found to be suitable for long-term bio-sequestration.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The site was originally cleared from the early 1900s for cropping and grazing sheep. The site is low yielding cropping land and showing signs of herbicide resistance. The site and adjoining land was purchased by the Carbon Neutral group in 2011.

Carbon Neutral's Yarra Yarra plantings are helping to re-establish habitats for Carnaby's Cockatoos and other flora and fauna



carbonneutral.com.au

+61 (0)8 9200 4424

contactus@carbonneutral.com.au

6 Norfolk House, 85 Forrest Street
Perth Western Australia 6011


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