

# YARRA YARRA BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

Making positive social, environmental and economic change.

## AUSTRALIAN NATIVE REFORESTATION

GOLD STANDARD - PLANNED EMISSION REDUCTION (PER)

Since the launch of the *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* project in 2008, 30 million trees and shrubs have been planted restoring over 13,000 hectares of land.

### THE PROJECT

This reforestation project aims to re-establish the natural landscape of a 200km corridor in the northern wheatbelt of Southwest Australia.

About 90% of our current planting area was cleared by European settlers during the 1900s to allow for the farming of crops and livestock. Over time the soil has degraded, and together with a drying climate, has left parts of the landscape no longer viable for traditional farming.

The removal of the natural woodland environment has threatened many plant and animal species with extinction.

These factors have led to Conservation International identifying the broader region of Southwest Australia as one of 35 globally significant biodiversity hotspots. Conservation International defines a biodiversity hotspot as a region that has a high percentage of endemic plant species and less than 30% of its natural vegetation remaining.

The *Yarra Yarra* project aims to revegetate the landscape of the Corridor and return the environment to its original state while simultaneously removing carbon from the atmosphere.

This is done by planting up to 60 different tree and shrub species indigenous to the region. The goal is to create a green corridor that will reconnect coastal regions with drier inland habitats. The Corridor will provide birds and animals with habitat for food, nests and protection from predators, encouraging them to transition through the landscape.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

**TYPE** Australian Native Reforestation

**LOCATION** northern wheatbelt of Southwest Australia

**STATUS** in operation, credits available

**EMISSIONS REDUCTION** 1.059M tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e over 50yrs

**SCOPE** 8,693 ha

**VINTAGES** 2020-22+

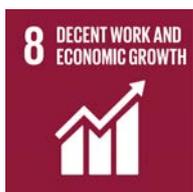
**CERTIFICATION** Gold Standard PER

**ADDITIONALITY & PERMANENCE** in accordance with Gold Standard Foundation rules

**3RD PARTY VERIFIED** by Rainforest Alliance

**TRANSPARENCY** provided by Gold Standard Impact Registry

**MARKETING MATERIAL** high resolution pictures and video available



**200+ jobs**

created, supporting rural communities and employing indigenous people.



**1.059M tCO<sub>2</sub>e**

will be sequestered, directly contributing to mitigating climate change.



**13,000 ha of land**

planted with mixed native species, reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss.



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

**Gold Standard**<sup>®</sup>  
Climate Security & Sustainable Development





## POSITIVE IMPACTS

- The project has injected more than \$8 million into the community, supporting 140 local businesses.
- Generation of new jobs for tree plantings, seed collection and integrated agricultural activities.
- Casual employment for 200+ people, including local indigenous people.
- Creation of an Australian Sandalwood integrated carbon industry in rural Australia.
- Five aboriginal heritage sites discovered in archaeological surveys are now registered with the Department of Indigenous Affairs Registry.
- Ecological scientists conducted a baseline biodiversity survey and discovered an amazing diversity of plant and animal species.
- Creation of wildlife habitats and the reintroduction of plant and animals, including over 30 species of conservation-significant native plants, 13 conservation-significant bird species and 100s of insect species.
- Combatting desertification by protecting and stabilising the ground with vegetation, which reduces soil salinity and erosion by wind and water.

## LEGAL

The reforestation is on company owned land. Trees are legally protected for 100 years by a *Carbon Right* and a *Carbon Covenant* on the land title.

Carbon credits are assigned unique serial numbers and assigned/retired on the Gold Standard Impact Registry; a public registry that guarantees the credits cannot be double-counted or resold.

## MITIGATING FIRE RISK

There are fire risk protection strategies in place including fire breaks, geographic separation of projects 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.

## GOLD STANDARD FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

Gold Standard projects take climate action together with sustainable development by contributing to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as agreed on by the United Nations.

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor Project* is the first premium Gold Standard certified project in Australia. It is certified to remove 1.059M tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e from the atmosphere over 50 years.

## VERIFIED EMISSIONS REDUCTION (VERs)

Carbon credits verified by The Gold Standard Foundation are known as VERs. They may be retired and used for carbon neutrality claims.

## PLANNED EMISSIONS REDUCTION (PERs)

In acknowledgement of the time taken and upfront finance required to sequester carbon in forests, The Gold Standard Foundation allows the registration of expected emission reductions. These credits are called Planned Emissions Reductions (PERs) and can be traded but cannot be retired.

After a third-party audit validates the sequestration of carbon, the PER credits will automatically become VER credits. In the interim, an equivalent number of verified carbon credits from an international project can be retired to enable the buyer to claim carbon neutrality.

