

South Coast 'Wilyun Pools'

Plant-a-Tree Program



Growing wildlife corridors where **every tree counts**

Help write a different story for the planet on Australia's south west coast.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PLANTING TREES & GROWING ECOSYSTEMS

THE PROJECT

Carbon Neutral's Plant-a-Tree program at Wilyun Pools is restoring ex-agricultural land to the thriving native ecosystem it once was, creating vital ecosystem services for wildlife, people, and the planet.

Located on Menang Noongar boodjar near Kinjarling (Albany) on Western Australia's southern coast, this Country has been a special place looked after for over 40 000 years.

However, widespread land in the 1950s and 1960s destroyed 88% of the area's native vegetation, leaving fragmented patches of habitat that's threatening the survival of countless unique species of animals and plants.

The Wilyun Pools Plant-a-Tree program is restoring these threatened ecological communities by planting biodiverse wildlife corridors of Yate wetland and Kwongan shrubland.

These revegetated communities are highly adapted to the climate with deep ancestral lineage. Their growth provides not only for wildlife, but also decreases soil salinity, activates soil nutrient cycling, and slows the rising water table.

The project is integrated with sustainable property management to increase its climate resilience to be sustainable for future generations. It's also generating regional economic investment and genuinely engaging with the Traditional Owners of Menang country.

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

The South West Floristic Region is one of only 36 Global Biodiversity Hotspots. It supports thousands of unique flora and fauna species found nowhere else in the world.

They're in urgent need of conservation action and long-term protection.



TEEMING WITH LIFE

Wilyun Pools is surrounded by Mettler Lake and Basil Road Nature Reserves and Hassell National Park, serving as a crucial wildlife corridor.

Birds, mammals, marsupials, reptiles, and insects in the area are extremely diverse and unique, but they face many threats.

The project is expanding and connecting their habitat by linking together patches of remnant vegetation with biodiverse native plantings. The threat of feral pests is also being carefully controlled.

The restoration is connecting habitat for the endangered:

- **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo** / ngolak
- **Forest Red-tailed Cockatoo** / karak
- **Australasian Bittern** / boordenitj
- **Painted-button Quail** / boorolom



AN ANCIENT LANDSCAPE IN NEED OF HELP

The complex and ancient geology of the region, with undulating plains and interspersing wetland, has produced a mosaic of biodiverse species assemblages across the project area.

More than 150 native plant species have been recorded in the remnant vegetation, each highly adapted to the nutrient-poor soils and climate.

The Kwongan shrubland vegetation community on the site is part a nationally Threatened Ecological Community.

The Flat-Topped Swamp Yate wetlands found in low lying claypans is listed as a Priority Ecological Community in WA due to declines from historic land clearing.

This reforestation project is writing a new chapter for these ecosystems by expanding them with biodiverse reforestation and ensuring their long-term protection and management.



Planting method

Carbon Neutral's planting methods encompassed local provenance seed collection, pre-treatment, and specialised restoration design to achieve healthy establishment and long-term survival at a large scale.

We used a two-pronged approach to planting. For species geared toward regeneration by seed, we used direct seeding methods. Larger overstory species like Eucalypt species were raised first in an on-site nursery then hand-planted so they're not outcompeted by faster growing shrub species.

Monitoring & protection

The project is planted on land owned by entities associated with Carbon Neutral or third-party landowners. The properties and trees are protected for 100 years by a Tree Plantation Agreement registered on the land title.

Carbon Neutral is committed to the monitoring and reporting of each planting site for vegetation condition, biodiversity, and soil and water quality at some sites. We plan to conduct a co-benefits study, biodiversity assessments, and other scientific research in the area to continually improve the project.

Fire management

A comprehensive fire management plan has been completed for the project area and the wider property. Fire control measures like fire breaks and considered vegetation planting help mitigate fire risk.

Many of the species planted are adapted to fire and rely on it as part of their natural life cycle. Cool burning methods may be investigated during the project's life time using Indigenous ecological knowledge and engagement with Menang custodians.

Carbon sequestration

This project doesn't have comprehensive carbon biomass measurements in place, and the young plantings don't capture much carbon when they're fresh in the soil. For this reason the project is not a carbon offset product, and the carbon sequestration and carbon credits of the project cannot be claimed by the purchaser.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Wilyun Pools reforestation project is actively contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable world for all.

15 LIFE
ON LAND



Life on land

The biodiverse plantings of native trees and shrubs contain over 40 species adapted to the area. They're providing habitat and food for endemic wildlife.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Good health and well-being

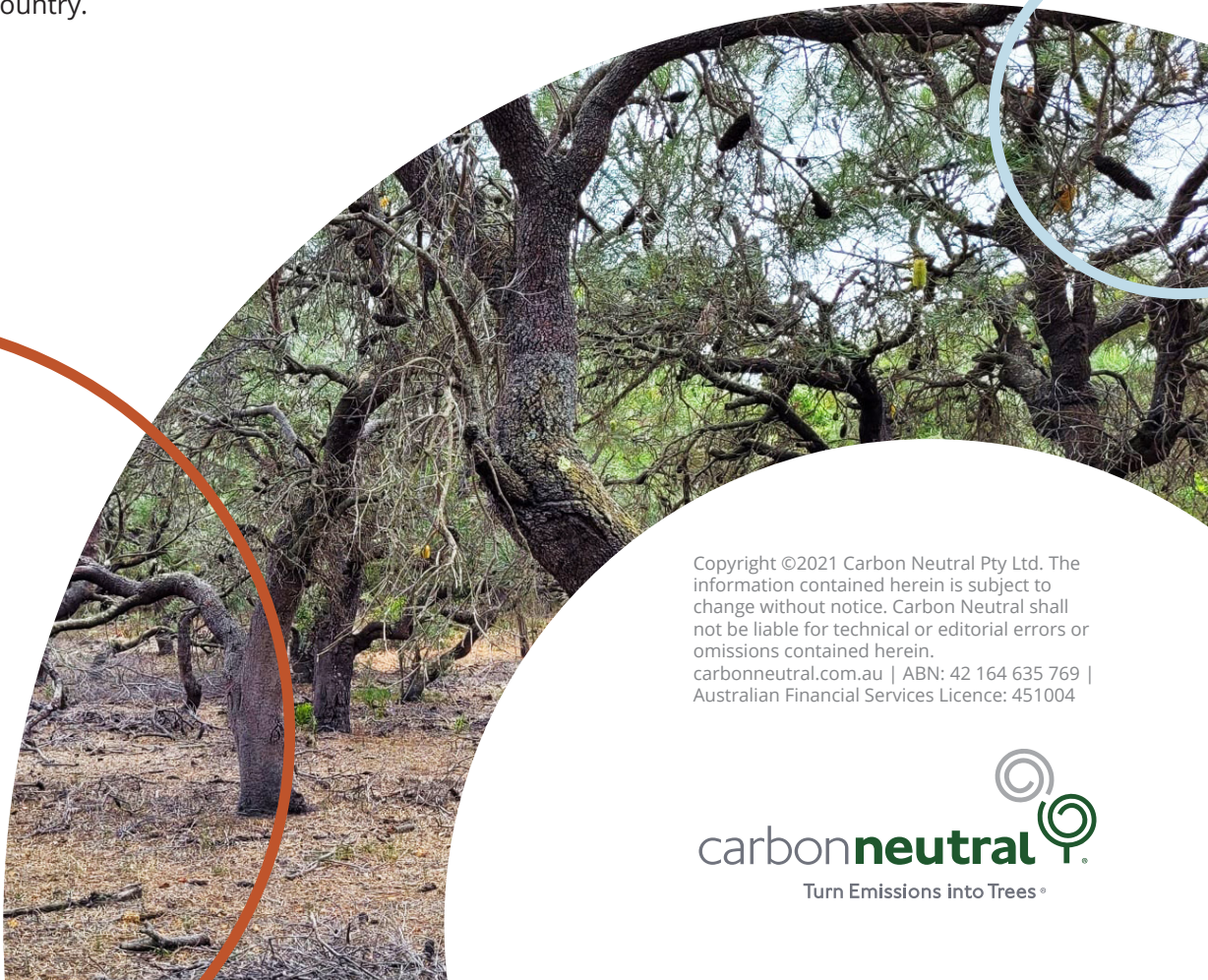
The project has continually engaged with Menang Noongar elders and custodians since its inception, and has received their approval. Throughout the project's lifetime it will invite genuine opportunities to Heal Country.

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



Clean water and sanitation

Lowering salinity in both ground and surface waters of the project's lifetime.



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