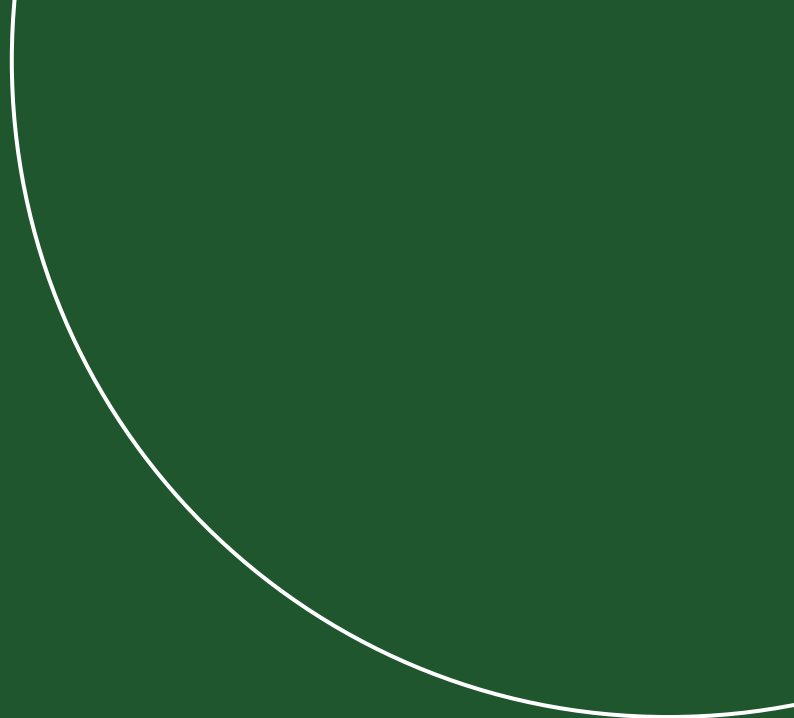


# Nature Positive

INFORMATION PACK 2023



# Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth and is essential to human survival.

Yet, our world is facing unparalleled loss of life and ecosystems due to human activities such as deforestation, pollution, overfishing, and climate change.

**Today, over 1 million species are at risk of extinction.**

Preserving nature loss is crucial for businesses to secure the continued availability of the natural resources needed for their growth. By implementing sustainable practices and preventing damage to nature, businesses can reduce risks and promote long-term economic success.



# Positive Changes are Happening.

2015's Paris Agreement recognised the urgent need to limit global warming to below 1.5°C and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to avoid catastrophic climate impacts.

However, it has become increasingly clear that more than simply achieving net zero by 2050 is needed to tackle the severe environmental damage caused by human activities. Despite the worldwide pledges made by governments and organisations to reduce carbon emissions, if we neglect to address the critical issues of nature loss and land degradation, our fight against climate crisis alone will be futile.

In a powerful move to address their impact on nature, more than 330 businesses and financial institutions from 52 countries urged their governments to take action by adopting nature mandates.

A global initiative spearheaded by major corporations including Unilever, Nestlé, and H&M acknowledged their past negative impact on the environment and led the charge in advocating for change, with a goal to promote greater transparency and accountability across industries as well as encouraging companies to adopt more sustainable practices.



To sustain life on Earth, we must acknowledge and adopt comprehensive solutions that simultaneously address the climate and biodiversity crises.

# The Path to Positivity.

Through the power of collective action to address the issue of nature loss, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was agreed to at the COP15 Global Conference on Biodiversity, in October 2022.

A framework that mandates the protection and management of at least 30% of the world's land and oceans, focusing on areas critical for biodiversity and ecosystem function. Previous to this agreement, only 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine areas worldwide were under protection.

The framework consists of four overarching 2050 goals and 23 global 2030 targets. These targets are categorised into four general topics that align with the goals. The topics include conservation and restoration of biodiversity, nature's contribution to humanity, access and benefit sharing, and tools for implementation and mainstreaming.

Moving forward, the adopted framework serves as the guiding principle for global biodiversity action over the next decade, focusing on the following:

- 1 Halt extinction of known threatened species and significantly reduce extinction risk (Goal A)
- 2 Ensure at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration (Target 2)
- 3 Ensure at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved and managed (Target 3)
- 4 Reduce the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030 (Target 6)
- 5 Reduce pollution risks and impacts from all sources to prevent harmful effects on biodiversity (Target 7)
- 6 Minimise the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity (Target 8)
- 7 Mainstream biodiversity into decision-making across government and business (Targets 14 and 15)



At Carbon Neutral we believe that having a globally supported framework in place is an incredibly positive sign of progress. Yet while all positive actions remain within a voluntary marketplace, it is now incumbent upon ourselves and our partners to do the vital work necessary to safeguard global biodiversity.

~ Dr Phil Ireland, Carbon Neutral CEO



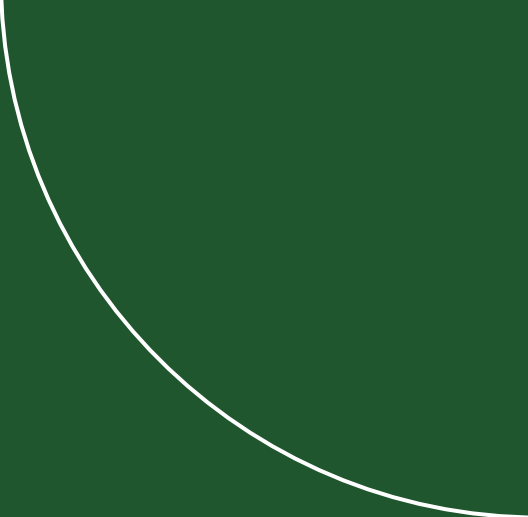


# Time to Get Nature Positive.

Nature positive describes the holistic approach to environmental conservation and restoration that aims to actively regenerate ecosystems and biodiversity. It goes beyond merely reducing harm to nature but focuses on restoring its health and resilience.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) are part of a substantial coalition of organisations that advocates for a 'nature-positive global goal for nature.' The objective is to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss by 2030 and fully restore nature by 2050.

A nature-positive approach involves a range of strategies, including restoring degraded habitats, promoting sustainable land use practices, protecting biodiversity, and advocating for the use of renewable resources. For businesses, governments, and individuals, contributing to a nature-positive approach is acknowledging the relationship between human society and the natural world and the need for us to prioritise both. Creating a sustainable and resilient future for everyone and every living creature.



# Towards a Nature Positive Australia.

Australia is one of the 17 “megadiverse” countries worldwide that participated in the negotiations for the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework. This group of countries represents fewer than 10% of the world’s area and is responsible for over 70% of its biodiversity.

Australia has pledged its commitment to developing and implementing the framework by signing several statements at COP15. These include the Ten Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity, the Joint Donor Statement on International Finance for Biodiversity and Nature, and the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership - Declaration of Intent.

**In addition, Australia has initiated significant reforms to conserve biodiversity domestically.**

- 1.** The development of National Environmental Standards that will be used for planning and decision-making, including EPBC Act assessments and approvals.
- 2.** The establishment of a federal Environment Protection Agency (EPA) responsible for compliance and enforcement, publication of guidelines, and project assessments and determinations, with the support of an advisory group.
- 3.** The Minister's power of approval for 'controlled actions' projects will be passed on to the EPA, improving the independence of decision-making under the EPBC Act.
- 4.** A commitment to First Nations partnerships, including developing National Environmental Standards and standalone cultural heritage legislation to replace the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 (Cth).
- 5.** The conservation of 30% of land and oceans by 2030 under the "30 by 30" commitment.
- 6.** The commitment to prevent new extinctions is supported by allocating \$224 million towards the Saving Native Species program.
- 7.** Establishing a voluntary **Nature Repair Market** will support landholders in Australia to conserve, protect, and restore nature while providing options for businesses to invest in nature repair.



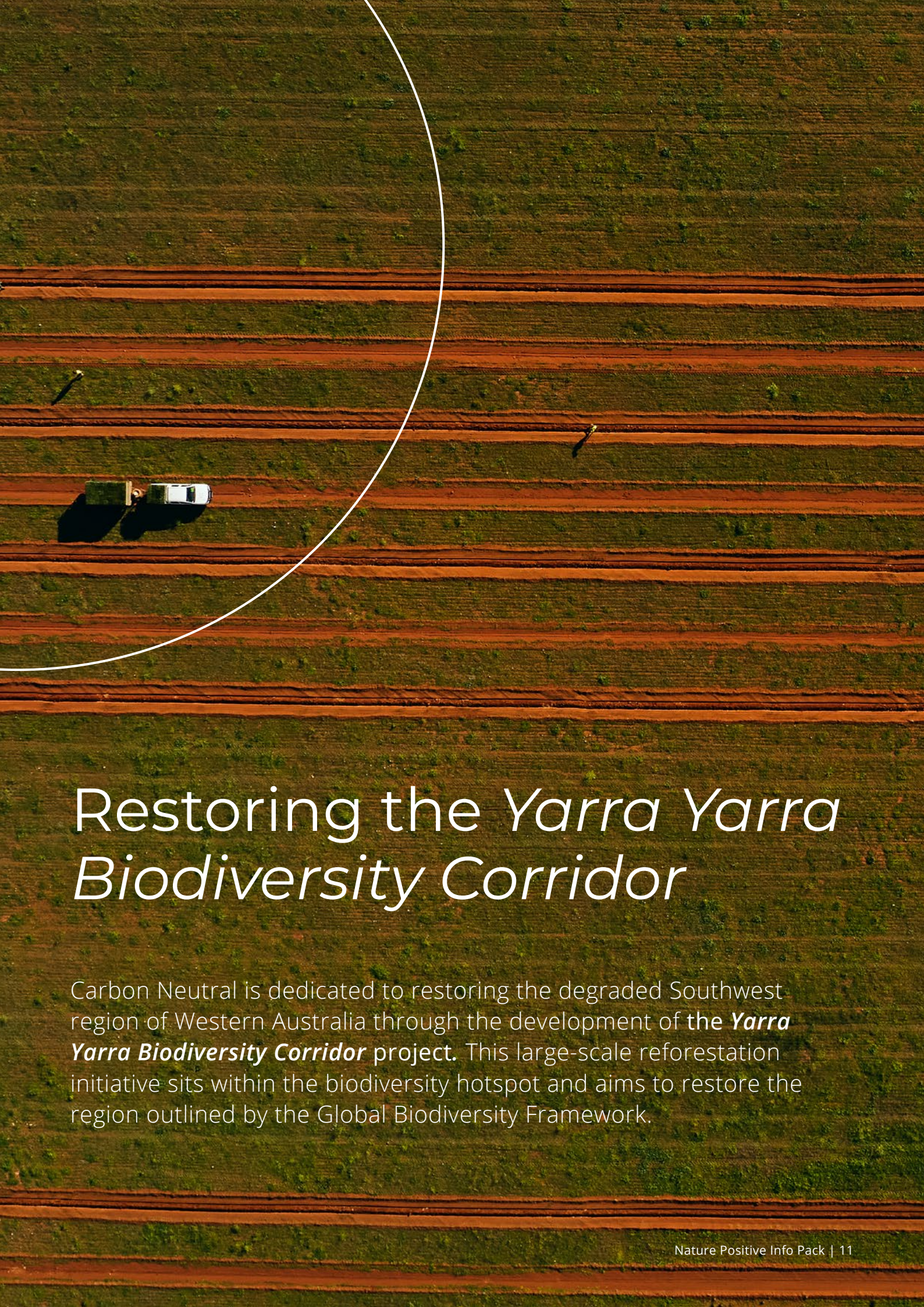


The Southwest region of Australia boasts the country's most diverse landscape. In fact, it is one of only 36 Biodiversity Hotspots in the world and was the first of its kind in the country.

The area possesses a remarkable variety of plant species that can only be found in this region. This is due to its isolation from the rest of Australia for millions of years and its extreme climate shifts and nutrient-poor soils that have encouraged the development of specialised flora. As a result, the area contains a range of ecosystems, including heathlands, woodlands, and wetlands, with these unique species now facing significant threats.

A Global Diversity Hotspot is a region on Earth with a high concentration of unique and diverse plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world and are used to guide conservation efforts and prioritise areas for protection. Some well-known global biodiversity hotspots include the Amazon rainforest and the Sundaland region of South-eastern Asia that is home to the critically endangered orangutan and Javan rhino.

Due to agricultural expansion and other factors, Southwest Australia has lost approximately 70% of its original vegetation, leaving only 30% intact and alarmingly, under 5% in some regions. As a result, this region is home to several threatened species, such as the endangered numbat and the critically endangered western swamp turtle. Additionally, all three species of black cockatoos that inhabit the area face the immediate risk of extinction.



# Restoring the *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor*

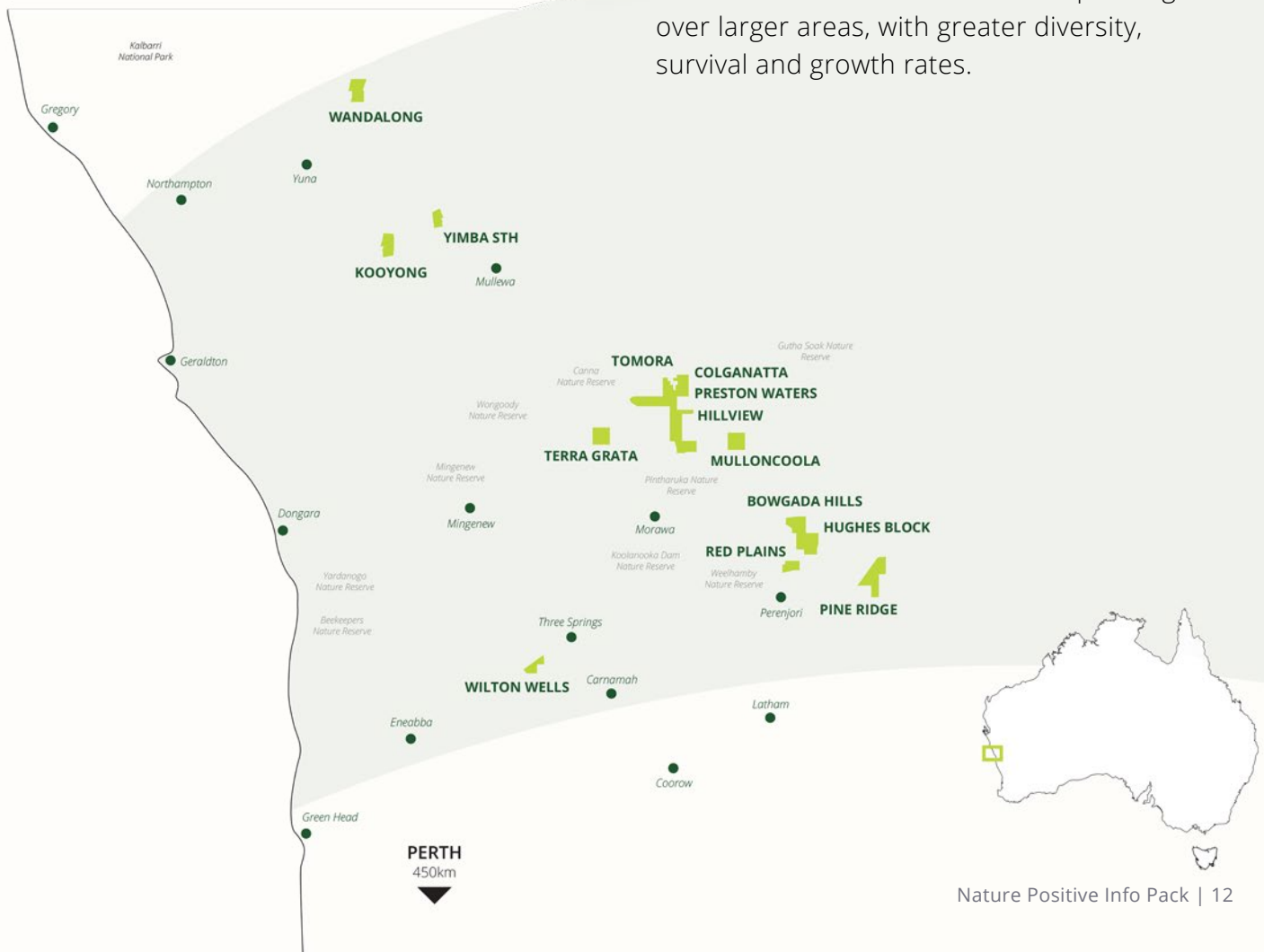
Carbon Neutral is dedicated to restoring the degraded Southwest region of Western Australia through the development of the **Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor** project. This large-scale reforestation initiative sits within the biodiversity hotspot and aims to restore the region outlined by the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Once a flourishing woodland of York and Salmon gum trees, the region lost over 90% of its vegetation due to farm clearing in the early twentieth century. As a result, extensive parts of the landscape are now bare and unsuitable for cultivation, leaving only small patches of vegetation abundant in plant and animal species. The Corridor seeks to restore the natural landscape and preserve precious biodiversity while delivering environmental, economic, social, and heritage co-benefits as well as removing carbon from the atmosphere.

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor project* has become the first carbon farming initiative in Australia to achieve premium Gold Standard certification. The project aims to create a 200km wide green corridor from inland to the coast, reconnecting remnant vegetation with 12 nature reserves across a 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> area and contributing to revegetating the landscape with mixed species native to the region and planting endemic trees and shrubs that encourage wildlife to return to the area, providing vegetation for food, habitat, and breeding.

Wildlife surveys have identified over 450 species of flora, insects, and birds in the region, including thirteen bird species of conservational significance and threatened species such as Malleefowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Western Spiny-tailed Skink, and the Woylie (Brush-tailed Bettong), as well as 30 species of conservation-significant native plants.

Our methods encompass provenance seed collection, seed pre-treatment, equipment design and modification to control weeds and harvest water. This enables faster planting over larger areas, with greater diversity, survival and growth rates.



**A cost-effective and responsible approach to landscape management, corridor rehabilitation helps ecosystems thrive by:**

- 1.** Improving the connectivity and health of fragmented habitats by facilitating the movement of species and genetic diversity. This can help to restore ecosystems, prevent biodiversity loss, and increase ecosystem resilience.
- 2.** Mitigating the impacts of habitat fragmentation on ecosystem services, such as pollination and water quality. This can benefit both wildlife and communities.
- 3.** Carefully planned planting methodologies that factor in the best possible outcomes for both flora and fauna to thrive.



## Current Carbon Neutral Partners

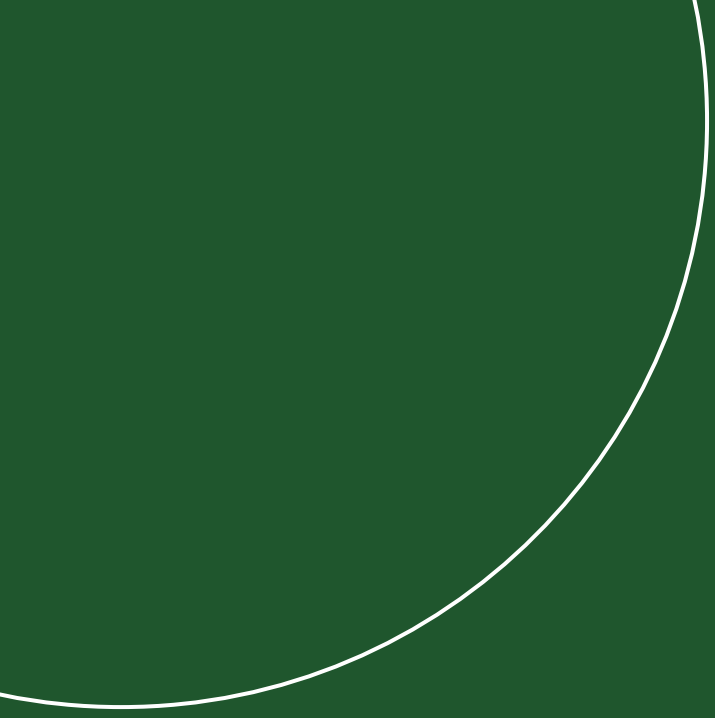
Nature is crucial for businesses to thrive. It provides us with resources, maintains a stable climate and helps maintain our cities. But deforestation is having serious consequences for businesses and the environment.

When trees are lost, we face issues like reduced water quality, soil erosion, and an increased risk of droughts and floods. This loss of trees also impacts our food security by affecting the pollination that many crops depend on.

Beyond the ecological impacts, the loss of trees and biodiversity can harm a business's reputation and social license. Society is becoming more aware of the importance of protecting nature, and businesses whose operations contribute to biodiversity loss now face reputational damage and ultimately exclusion from the market.

With increasing customer and investor awareness, protecting biodiversity will become essential for a company's social license to operate. Investing in biodiversity and nature-based solutions helps companies attract socially responsible investors and consumers, providing a competitive advantage in the long term.

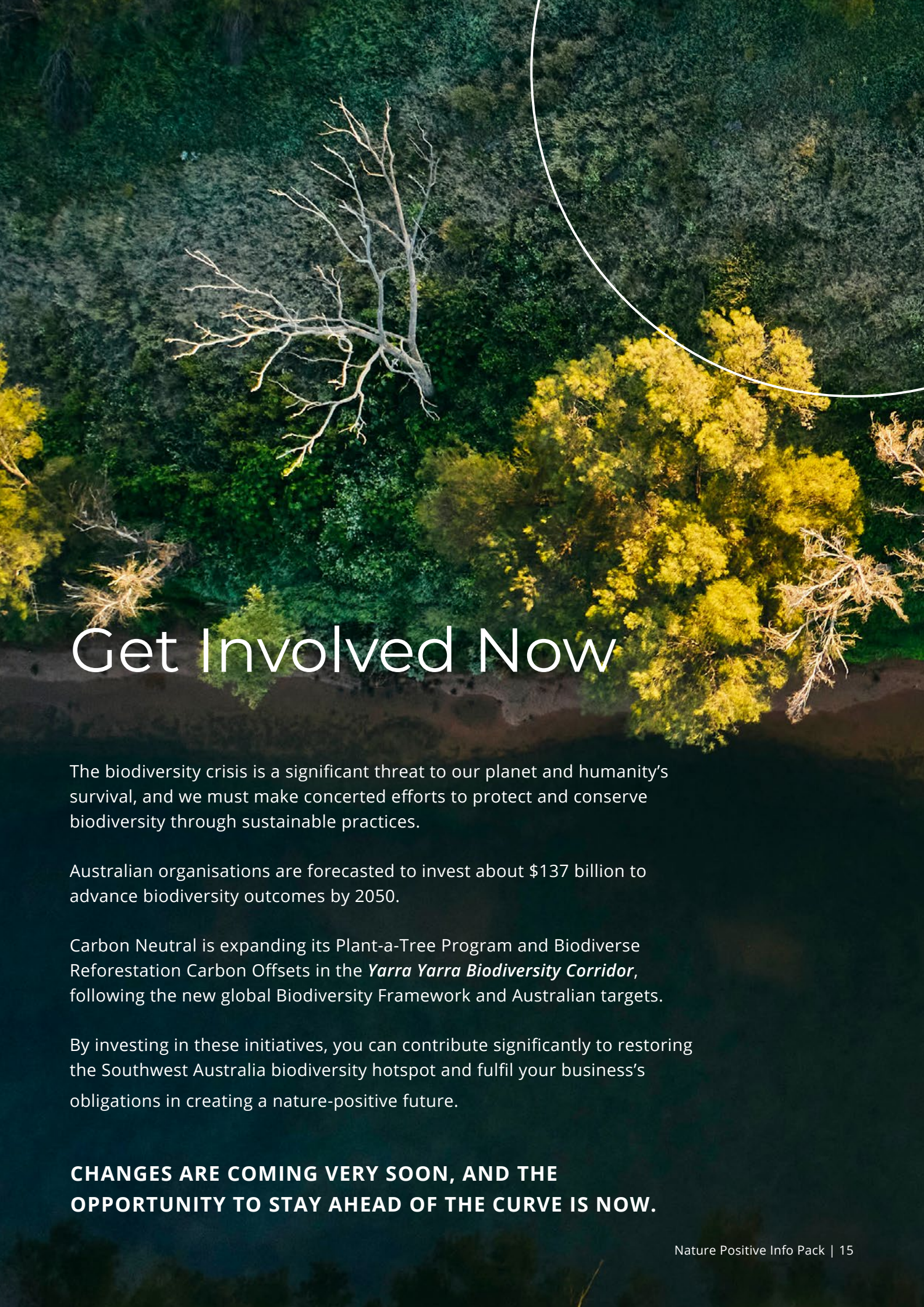
Organisations adopting Carbon Neutral services and solutions include Austral Fisheries, Tread Softly Wines, Modi Bodi, Bed Threads, Temple and Webster, Manchester United F.C., and M.J Bale.



Since 2008, with the support of our partners, we have planted over 30 million trees, plants and shrubs, having restored more than 16,000 hectares of cleared land using a pioneering approach to direct seeding and hand planting. As a result, the scale of biodiverse reforestation planting has grown substantially, with over 60 native tree and shrub species established.

~ **Dr Phil Ireland, Carbon Neutral CEO**

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* project offers hope for restoring the Southwest region's natural ecosystems, thereby preserving its unique biodiversity for the future.

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A large, dead, bleached tree stands out in the upper left quadrant. To its right, a cluster of trees has vibrant yellow foliage. A thin white arc curves across the top right of the image. The text 'Get Involved Now' is overlaid in white.

# Get Involved Now

The biodiversity crisis is a significant threat to our planet and humanity's survival, and we must make concerted efforts to protect and conserve biodiversity through sustainable practices.

Australian organisations are forecasted to invest about \$137 billion to advance biodiversity outcomes by 2050.

Carbon Neutral is expanding its Plant-a-Tree Program and Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets in the *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor*, following the new global Biodiversity Framework and Australian targets.

By investing in these initiatives, you can contribute significantly to restoring the Southwest Australia biodiversity hotspot and fulfil your business's obligations in creating a nature-positive future.

**CHANGES ARE COMING VERY SOON, AND THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE IS NOW.**



# Our Story

For more than two decades Carbon Neutral has been helping individuals and organisations to reduce their impact on the environment. With a vision to measure, reduce and offset, our team specialises in minimising risk for organisations by developing customised carbon measurements, climate risk-reducing strategies, and carbon offset solutions that are tailored to your business' operations.

Carbon Neutral is the developer of Australia's first Gold Standard-certified reforestation project, the **Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor**, which has grown to become the country's largest biodiverse reforestation carbon sink. With the support of its partners, Carbon Neutral have established over 16,000 hectares of biodiverse plantings, the equivalent of over 2,500 Melbourne Cricket Grounds.

Contact Carbon Neutral for further information on how you  
and your business can play your part in mitigating against  
the global biodiversity and climate crises.



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[carbonneutral.com.au](https://carbonneutral.com.au)

By partnering with Carbon Neutral to achieve your environmental and climate objectives,  
you can make a positive impact to restoring Australia's biodiversity.