

# Mettler Lake

Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets



## THE PROJECT

In 2021 Threshold Environmental established a high-quality, biodiverse environmental carbon planting project for Native Carbon Pty Ltd at a property near Mettler, Western Australia.

All planting areas were established between August and September 2021, using a combination of direct seeding and hand-planted seedlings.

## CONNECTING WITH REMNANT VEGETATION

The project planting areas are located on land whose owners are dedicated to conserving biodiversity.

This land is part of the ecologically rich coastal corridor on the WA south coast. Although still within the local agricultural landscape, it features large tracts of intact native vegetation. The property lies adjacent to Lake Mettler Nature Reserve and close to Basil Road Nature Reserve, and its position within a matrix of fragmented yet intact remnant vegetation makes it an ideal location for native revegetation projects.

The two land titles upon which the plantings are located already include 287 hectares of high-quality remnant vegetation, now buffered and connected through 85 hectares of high-quality, biodiverse environmental plantings.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANTINGS

A total of 42 local native flora species were planted for this project, having consideration of soil type, and in an appropriate mixture to support long-term health and survival. The revegetation of the cleared areas will also help to strengthen and expand existing remnant vegetation, while creating corridors to connect with neighboring remnant vegetation.

With the establishment of native vegetation matched to the soil type, it is anticipated that many local fauna species will be supported. This includes providing expanded food resources from Proteaceous species to support the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*).

## INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

As part of project delivery, members of the Binalup Rangers Indigenous Ranger Group were engaged to plant Proteaceous tree seedlings - a known food source for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo - to enhance biodiversity outcomes.



## WHAT ARE BIODIVERSE REFORESTATION CARBON OFFSETS?

Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offsets remove CO2 from the atmosphere every day. They also help to restore environments, particularly where large tracts of land have been cleared for agriculture, leaving behind degraded landscapes and pushing native species to the threat of extinction through habitat loss. Biodiverse reforestation projects, such as the Mettler Lake project, enhance our shared natural capital through habitat restoration, land conservation and various social and economic benefits.

The majority of Carbon Neutral's plantings are located in southern Western Australia in an area known as the Southwest Australia Ecoregion. This Ecoregion has an exceptionally high number of flora and fauna species found nowhere else in the world. Identified as one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots, it is the first of only two hotspots recognised in Australia.





## AUDIT AND MEASUREMENT

Carbon measurements and projections are independently verified by a qualified third party. This ensures that 1 carbon credit = 1 tonne carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>-e). A conservative estimate of carbon sequestration on the Mettler Lake Biodiverse Reforestation Carbon Offset (BRCO) planting site is approximately 330 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e per hectare over 50 years.

Carbon Neutral applies the Australian Government's Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM) to project the volume of carbon the planted trees and shrubs will sequester (over 50 years). FullCAM is based on a huge dataset and provides fully integrated projections of above and below ground sequestration for a carbon estimation area. This is in accordance with the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator's 'Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings Method'.

This BRCO project is not registered under a formal certification framework.

## CLAIMING CARBON NEUTRALITY

Carbon Neutral sells BRCOs before full sequestration is achieved. As it may be some years before carbon is sequestered, Carbon Neutral independently retires an equal number of verified carbon credits from an international project. This ensures that buyers can claim carbon offsetting (and carbon neutrality where applicable).

Reforestation activities require significant upfront investment to cover land acquisition and planting costs. By purchasing BRCOs you are helping to finance ongoing reforestation planting programs; buyers can proudly promote their support of an Australian ecosystem restoration project.

## CARBON CREDIT REGISTRY

All BRCO units (tonnes) are held on an internal register and allocated a unique serial identification number. All purchased units are cancelled on this register to ensure there is no double-counting or double-selling, and the unique serial numbers are provided to all offline BRCO purchasers. Our internal register is independently audited at least every five years.

## LAND TENURE AND 'PERMANENCE'

This project has a 100 year Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant registered on one of the two project land titles\*, providing legal protection of the sequestered carbon and stipulating any applicable land and tree management obligations.

\* Registration of a Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant on the remaining land title is to be finalised.



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## MITIGATING FIRE RISK

Fire control measures in use may include fire breaks, geographic separation of planting sites, insurance and light grazing of sheep to reduce fuel load (note: livestock are mostly excluded from planting sites to avoid damage to plantings and allow natural generation in the inter rows.)

Native tree plantings are self-regenerating. If a fire or other disturbance occurs, causing a decline in the amount of carbon stored, regrowth will be managed to allow the carbon stock to return to previously reported values.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

This planting site will be independently monitored and reported for health, survival and carbon pools at least twice in the first 5 years.

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**"The project weaves together many of the key threads that underpin a successful ecological restoration project of this nature. The land is managed by a certified organic farmer who is committed to nature conservation.**

**The restoration itself was scientifically informed and locally inspired, where detailed planning ensured the right species were planted in the right locations, and in the right community compositions. Support and endorsement from key local leaders of the Noongar community completed the circle for this project, enabling the healing of country in an honourable and respectful way."**

Justin Jonson, Managing Director,  
Threshold Environmental

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