Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor

Wandalong Biodiverse Reforestation Project, Australia

Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs)

The Project

Wandalong is a native reforestation project creating a biodiverse habitat on degraded farming land. The property is situated within the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor, a region that had 97% of its vegetation cleared for agriculture in the twentieth century but that aims to once more teem with endemic plant and animal species.

The Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor – situated in one of only 36 Global Biodiversity Hotspots – is a significant location for this project. Its mission to reconnect remnant vegetation across over a dozen nature reserves supports multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by reducing salinity, sequestering carbon and restoring native woodland that provides habitat for thousands of species.

What makes Wandalong unsuitable for farming – its sandy soils, remoteness, and degraded land – makes it ideal for revegetation. Restoring native vegetation here will boost biodiversity and land health, as well as sequester significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

PROJECT KEY FACTS

Project ID	ERF185768
Certification	Australian Government ACCU Scheme
Location	Within the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor, Southwest Australia
Estimated Annual Emissions Reduction	10,020 tCO_2-e
Crediting Period	2023 - 2048

Environmental Impact and Benefits

This project will enhance the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor by linking the Mallee Nature Reserve and Wandana Nature Reserve and eventually, connecting to the Greenough River. Through mixed native species and mallee plantings in two formations, this project's biodiverse reforestation helps reduce salinity and counter the rising water table, creating healthier soils and cleaner water.

This is particularly applicable to Wandalong as its soil includes red sands and loams over patchy calcrete, as well as areas of deeper red fine sands and yellow sands that are uneconomic to farm in a drying climate. The tall remnant woodland surrounding and throughout the property (across all soil types) give it forest potential, making it an ideal candidate for such a carbon project.

The project is reversing the legacies of agriculture and creating richer soil microbial communities. The plantings prevent erosion, desertification and dryland salinity and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, taking real climate action while restoring biodiversity on degraded land.

Legal Carbon Protection

The project's plantings are legally protected for 100 years by a Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant registered on the land title. The Carbon Covenant details land and tree management obligations. The carbon stored for the project is 'locked up' for a period of 100 years as detailed in the Carbon Right and Carbon Covenant.

Monitoring

Monitoring of the site happens throughout the year, particularly in autumn (for post-summer survival monitoring and infill planting logistics planning) and spring (for post-planting monitoring and mapping).

Mitigating Fire Risk

The biodiverse mix of native species we plant are adapted to fire and self-generate to be sustainable in the long-term. A comprehensive fire mitigation strategy is in place, including maintained firebreaks, an on-site water supply, dedicated land management oversight and coordination with the local fire brigade.

If a fire or other disturbance occurs – causing a decline in the amount of carbon stored – we follow regulatory requirements to allow the carbon stock to return to previously reported values.

Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct SIGNATORY

ACCU Scheme by the Australian Government