

Enhancing Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink Project, 2nd Year



Information for landholders in the Tarwin and Fish Creek area



By working with landholders to increase and improve their onsite vegetation, the Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink Project will build ecological resilience and connectivity in the area by providing funding for fencing for remnant vegetation protection or revegetation activities. We are seeking willing landholders to take part in this project.

Last year, the project helped to protect a total of 61.25ha through either remnant vegetation protection or revegetation activities which included over 9,000 new plants in the ground. This project will build on these and other biodiversity activities within the project area, aiming to restore and protect key areas of habitat and to create strategic linkages across private land, linking to public land where appropriate.



The Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Biodiversity Biolink Project, 2nd Year



The 2011/2012 financial year marks the second year of a project coordinated by the South Gippsland Landcare Network through a partnership with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Government through the Department of Sustainability and Environment. The project aims to increase ecological resilience and connectivity between Andersons Inlet, Cape Liptrap and the Strzelecki Ranges.

As with last years program, the Network will be working with landholders to provide on-ground protection, enhancement and restoration of native vegetation that will form key bi links at a landscape scale.

What area does the project cover?

The target area is defined by a roughly triangular shaped area south of the Fish Creek (between Tarwin Lower and past the town of Fish Creek). The eastern boundary is the Foster-Promontory Road-Fish Creek-Yanakie Rd. The western boundary is Tarwin Lower Road and the northern boundary is the Buffalo-Tarwin Lower Road- Fish Creek-Foster Road. (See map below).

I do not belong to the Tarwin or Fish Creek Landcare Groups, can I still take part?

Yes. As this project is funded through the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, any landholder in the project area may take part.



Is there a minimum site size to be eligible for the project?

Yes. The minimum width for revegetation must be at least 10m wide. This is due to the 'edge effect.' Edge areas are where revegetated blocks interact with the surrounding environment and as they are exposed to wind, sunlight, invasive of exotic plants etc.

Too much edge area is bad as it generally forms a uniform environment and does not form a diverse natural environment to support biodiversity. The wider the site, the lower amount of edge: area there is and the more species it can support. Ten metres is the minimum width that promotes a low proportion of vegetation directly exposed to edge effects.

There is no required size for the total project. However, the larger the site, the more benefit it will provide to the environment and the more likely it is to be funded i.e. the bigger the better.

I was unsuccessful in receiving funding last financial year or I couldn't meet the deadlines - it worth applying again?

The level of interest last year far exceeded the amount of funding available, therefore several landholders unfortunately missed out. Another issue for some landholders was the tight deadlines they felt they couldn't commit to.

Not to be deterred, should you wish to have your project from last year re-considered please contact Kate Williams on 56625759 to register your interest. Keep in mind that, as with last years program, projects will however still be prioritised based on the 'protect, enhance, restore' approach.

All projects will be ranked and funded according to its potential to benefit the environment and increase the connectedness of vegetation in area. Areas with rare or endangered communities will be looked upon favourably.

The Nuts and Bolts



How do I get involved?

Arrange a time for your Project Officer to visit and discuss your project and details further.

What is the management plan?

The management plan is a plain language document confirming your commitment to finish your project by the end of the funding arrangement. It is not meant to trip you, but simply outline what you want to do and when you will do it by.

How long will the management plan last for?

The management plan extends until the end of the project, with an ongoing commitment by the landholder to maintain the work.

How will I be paid?

After signing your management agreement, you will receive 50% of your funds. Once you have finished your project and it has been sighted by the Project Officer, you will receive the final 50%. You must also take a before and after photo of the project in order to receive this funding.

How much will I get paid?

If your project is successful the South Gippsland Landcare Network will fund:

Remnant vegetation fencing - \$6.00/m

Revegetation fencing - \$4.00/m

Tubestock - \$1.00/tubestock

Funding is also available for weed control where it is an integral part of the project.

What about my weeds?

The Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Project requires that certain minimum standards for weed management be adopted for use under your management agreement. Current legislation requires landholders to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds and prevent the growth of regionally controlled weeds on their land and land under your control. Weeds should be controlled or eradicated to this standard. Additionally, weeds should be controlled or eradicated as required under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. For more information go to the South Gippsland Landcare Networks weed website www.southgippslandweeds.com

What are the fencing requirements?

Fencing design and erection must be to a standard that is stock proof, permanent and acceptable to the inspecting officer, with well-constructed strainers and end assemblies. Examples of suitable fencing could include:

Standard fencing - 4 steel posts per 20m, 6 plain wires or 6 line pre fabricated fence

Electric fencing - 2 treated pine posts and dropper per 20m, 5 plain wires (3 line, 2 earth)

Beef - 4 strand plain, with minimum 2 electrified

Dairy - 3 strand plain wire electrified

Sheep - 6 plain wire with any 2 electrified

Other eg flood areas - 3 plain wires electrified

Please read our fencing guidelines or talk to the Project Officer for further details.

What are the tax implications?

Project payments are viewed as taxable income. Please contact your accountant to discuss and work through how to manage the payments as part of your overall property management expenditure.

What if I change my mind?

Landholders can withdraw from the process at any time without obligation up to signing the management agreement. If the process is withdrawn from after this, the Landholder will not receive the second half of the funding allocation, and the first payment may have to be refunded decided upon by a case by case process.

What are the vegetation requirements?

Landholders proposing to plant within their native vegetation site or revegetate a cleared site will be required to establish suitably local indigenous species. A list of suitable species, and what densities they should be planted at, will be provided by your Landcare Project Officer. This is in order to achieve the greatest biodiversity potential possible.

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Name			
Email			
Contact numbers			
Telephone:		Mobile:	
Postal Address			
Property Address (if different from above)			
Size of property Ha/acres			
Project Details			
Size of Project Site			
Will the Project?	Protect Remnant	Restore Remnant	Connect Remnant Create Revegetation
Will the project require?	Tubestock Fencing Weed Control Other (i.e. tree guards) Please specify		
	Please describe or your project below. Explain your aims and tell us how it fits in with your property and your future aims. Attach or email photos and maps.		
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
Training courses and programs <i>(Please tick the ones you are interested in)</i>			
1. Direct seeding and revegetation techniques farm walk/field day			
2. Soil erosion and salinity management field days (DPI)			
3. Whole Farm Planning Course (DPI)			
4. What is a biolink and why are they important field day			
5. Other (please specify)			
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NB The key aims of this project are about biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity however the Landcare Network is keen to know what general natural resource management topics you are interested in so that it can provide relevant training and information.			

Please Note; Applications close 30th September 2011.
Please return to: South Gippsland Landcare Network
PO Box 419 Leongatha VIC 3953 or email to Kate Williams at: katew@wgcm.vic.gov.au
For further info contact Kate on 56625759 or mobile 0428 317 928

