

# Native Vegetation Council

## Heritage Agreement Incentive Grant Guide 2024-2026



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for  
Environment and Water



Native Vegetation Council

The Native Vegetation Council (NVC) is pleased to offer landholders the opportunity to apply for an incentive grant to establish a new Heritage Agreement, or to expand their existing Heritage Agreement to cover an additional area.

This incentive grant program is a state-wide opportunity for funding between 1 to 5 years that will help to protect and enhance native vegetation.

This program is part of the election commitment Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Grant Program offered by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Incentive grants are provided by the NVC to establish new Heritage Agreements.

## How to get involved

To find out how the program can support you, all you need to do is submit a simple [Expression of Interest online](#), by email: [NVC.haprogram@sa.gov.au](mailto:NVC.haprogram@sa.gov.au) or by phone: 8303 9777.

A Heritage Agreement Officer will be in contact to discuss your site and support available.

Our Heritage Agreement Officers are experts in the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. They can assist you to understand your site and how it can contribute to improving local biodiversity.

## Grant overview

The incentive grant will help to increase protection and enhance native vegetation.

Incentive grant will be for activities to increase protection and improve condition for example fencing, weed control etc. Grants can be for one-off activities or activities that span a few years.

Grants can be for works on individual properties or works spanning multiple properties, provided all property owners agree to establish a new Heritage Agreement. Partnering with your neighbours is a great opportunity to make a landscape scale improvement in biodiversity.

## Grant eligibility

To be eligible for an incentive grant, you must:

- own land fee simple, dedicated Crown Land or leased Crown Land

- have land that meets the requirements for a Heritage Agreement, refer [Heritage Agreement Policy](#) e.g.:
  - contains native vegetation that warrants protection, and is
  - greater than 3 hectares and supports common species or communities, or
  - greater than 1 hectare and contains or provides habitat for rare, threatened or vulnerable species or communities
- propose activities to protect or improve biodiversity on the land
- have not received funding to undertake the same activities from another source, or are not required to conduct the same activities through another arrangement, e.g. offsetting
- have no outstanding matters with the Department for Environment and Water or NVC, that is, there are no outstanding conditions related to previous funding agreements
- enter into a Heritage Agreement within 6 weeks of receiving the documentation.
- seek approval under section 22(6)(c) of the Pastoral Act (will be required for any projects on pastoral land). We can assist you with this process if your grant is recommended by the NVC.

## Grant activities

The grant funding is to be used for activities that will help to establish the Heritage Agreement and improve condition of native vegetation. The focus of the grant should be for on-ground activities that enhance habitat for conservation significant species or communities, including those listed within:

- *Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *State National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- Provisional List of Threatened Ecosystems of South Australia (DEH in progress)
- any regional Landscapes or biodiversity plans.

Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- pest plant and animal control, including over-abundant native species
- revegetation of local native species
- fencing to exclude stock
- other activities that improve biodiversity.

Your grant may include development of a management plan were justified e.g. the site and management activities are complex and warrants a management plan.

## Monitoring

Your application must include photo point monitoring, before and after grant activities.

If the cost of your grant is over \$50,000 the NVC may require you include specific monitoring in your application.

If required, the monitoring is to include a vegetation assessment and brief report conducted by a [NVC Accredited Consultant](#) using the relevant NVC method.

The monitoring is to be conducted in select representative locations to review change as a result of grant activities.

The assessment will be required prior to starting grant activities. Depending on the duration of your grant, the NVC may also require a repeat vegetation assessment on completion of grant activities. The cost for the vegetation assessment and reporting can be included in your grant application and covered by the grant funding.

To find out what monitoring may apply to your application and what activities you could include, please discuss your application with our Heritage Agreement Officers.

## Grant value

The value of your grant i.e. the amount you apply for, will depend on what is required to establish the Heritage Agreement, and should reflect good value for money.

The funding for the incentive grant comes from offset (significant environmental benefits) payments and funded projects will help the NVC achieve required environmental benefits. Therefore, value for money will be assessed against the equivalent offset payment (\$/hectare). The formula for this is described in the [Guide to Calculating a SEB](#), (also refer Appendix 1).

Our Heritage Agreement Officer can help you scope a grant to align with the value for money.

To further help your grant reflect good value for money, it is recommended you consider what in-kind activities you can contribute to the protection and management of the site and discuss these in your application.

For grant activities over \$10,000 (GST inclusive) a quote is to be attached to the application.

For activities over \$55,000 (GST inclusive) at least 2 written quotes are to be attached, unless justification is provided for 1 quote..

## To lodge an application

To lodge an application, please:

- use the online Heritage Agreement Incentive Grant application form through SmartyGrants, please see link below
- include any attachments: management action maps, photos, letters of support, quotes
- submit it prior to 30 June 2026. The opportunity to submit an application may be withdrawn once funding is fully committed or at the discretion of the NVC, so you are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible.

A link to the Application form can be found here:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/protecting-enhancing/heritage-agreements>

## Grant assessment

Your grant application will be assessed on:

- conservation outcomes i.e. supports conservation significant species or communities, alignment with State conservation priorities
- benefit to biodiversity
- value for money
- likelihood of success.

The NVC will also consider the level of funding available in the region of the native vegetation fund and other programs it is delivering at the time. Supporting your grant is at the sole discretion of the NVC.

A decision on your grant is expected to be provided within 8 weeks of your application being received.

If your site is on a pastoral lease under the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989*, you will need approval from the Pastoral Board for use of the land for a purpose other than pastoral purposes (Section 22(6)).

You do not need to have Pastoral Board approval to submit your grant application. If your grant is recommended by the NVC, we will let you know and you will need to apply to the Pastoral Board at this point. Once Pastoral Board approval is received, you will be offered a grant.

## Grant agreement and funding

Grant recipients will be required to enter into a grant agreement to receive the funding. The grant agreement outlines key dates for the grant and any conditions, and these may include:

- reporting
- financial acquittal
- timing for grant milestones and payments
- return of any unspent funds
- acknowledgment that your project has been funded by the NVC.

## For more information

Please contact the Native Vegetation Branch on:

Email: [NVC.Haprogram@sa.gov.au](mailto:NVC.Haprogram@sa.gov.au)

Phone: 8303 9777

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/protecting-enhancing/heritage-agreements>



**Appendix 1** – Calculating a SEB payment– Extract SEB payment formula

The funding for the Incentive grants comes from offset (significant environmental benefits) payments and funded projects will help the NVC achieve SEBs. Therefore, value for money for your grant will be assessed against the equivalent SEB payment. Note that an offset payment aims to manage a site for a 10 year period so if your grant application is for fewer years, the cost should reflect this.

Calculate your cost according to the following formula:

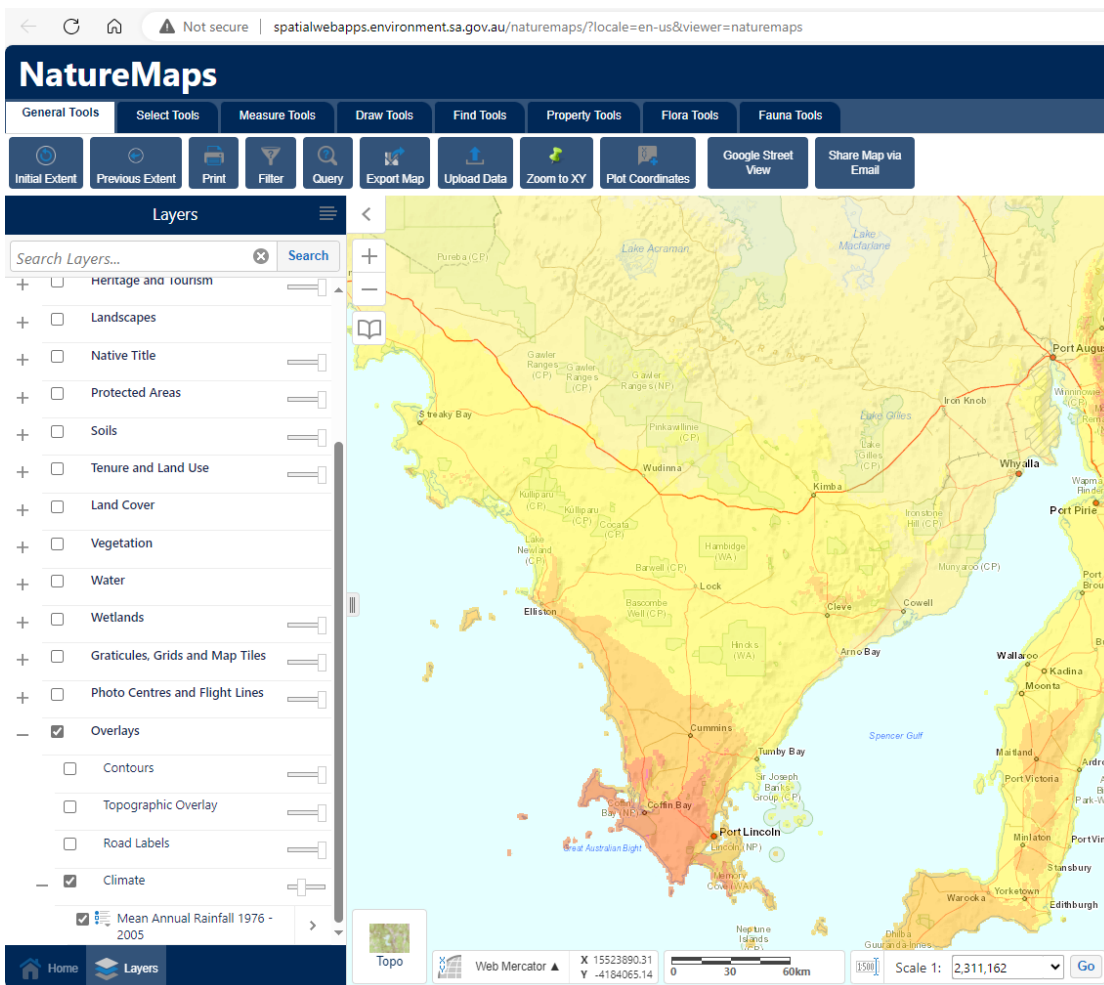


The Management Cost factor is indexed each year. The 2024/25 FY cost per hectare is \$24,764/ha.

Rainfall Factor is the mean annual rainfall for the site in millimetres, divided by 1000

Economies of Scale is defined by classes (Class 1 = 0.5, Class 2= 0.35, Class 3 = 0.29, Class 4 = 0.23, Class 5 = 0.11 and Class 6 = 0.065)

The data for rainfall factor and economies of scale is to be sourced from Naturemaps, see screenshots below:



The screenshot displays the NatureMaps web application interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows the URL: `spatialwebapps.environment.sa.gov.au/naturemaps/?locale=en-us&viewer=naturemaps`. The application title is "NatureMaps".

Below the title is a navigation bar with several tool categories: "General Tools", "Select Tools", "Measure Tools", "Draw Tools", "Find Tools", "Property Tools", "Flora Tools", and "Fauna Tools". A secondary row of buttons includes "Initial Extent", "Previous Extent", "Print", "Filter", "Query", "Export Map", "Upload Data", "Zoom to XY", "Plot Coordinates", "Google Street View", and "Share Map via Email".

The main interface is divided into a left-hand "Layers" panel and a central map area. The "Layers" panel includes a search bar and a list of layers with checkboxes and expand/collapse icons:

- Soils
- Tenure and Land Use
- Land Cover
- Vegetation
- Administration & Mapping
- Mapping
- Administration
  - Clearance Applications - Trees
  - Clearance Applications - Area
  - Economies Of Scale
  - Native Vegetation Act 1991 Boundary
  - Significant Environment Benefit Areas
  - Heritage Agreements
- Road/RailSide Significant Sites
- Vegetation Mapping Rasters
- SA Vegetation
- Planted Vegetation Cover
- Native Vegetation Cover

The map area shows a topographic map of South Australia with various colored overlays representing the selected layers. The map includes labels for numerous locations such as Port Augusta, Wyalala, Port Pirie, Port Lincoln, and Adelaide. At the bottom of the map, there is a scale bar (0 to 60 km), a scale indicator (Scale 1: 2,311,162), and a "Go" button. The map is currently set to "Topo" style and "Web Mercator" projection.

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Telephone +61 (8) 303 9777

ABN 36702093234

Prepared by:  
Department for Environment and Water  
Native Vegetation Branch  
Native Vegetation, Pastoral Land Management and Landscape Services Directorate

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)



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