

DRAFT HERITAGE AGREEMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINE CONSULTATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

September 2022

What is a Heritage Agreement?

A Heritage Agreement is an agreement between a land owner and the Minister responsible for the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act), for the permanent protection of native plants and animals on private land.

Why has the Native Vegetation Council developed the draft Heritage Agreement Policy and incentives guideline?

The Revitalising Private Conservation in South Australia Grant program (RPC program) was the first substantial investment in Heritage Agreements since 2014. The RPC program, which concluded in 2022, identified a number of concerns related to ongoing funding and also highlighted a number of perceptions of what actions can be undertaken on a Heritage Agreement.

Further to this, a formal review of the "Structure of Heritage Agreements" has been completed on behalf of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. The review has highlighted that clarity and communication is required to build understanding and capacity for existing and aspiring Heritage Agreement owners. To address this the review has suggested a policy as the best instrument for ensuring clarity and consistency.

The NVC has considered the findings of the review and information provided by the RPC program and has

developed a draft Heritage Agreement Policy that provides a consolidated position.

Most importantly, these documents provide a framework for consistent decision making for Heritage Agreements.

In addition to the policy and in accordance with the Act requirements, the NVC has developed guidelines to support Heritage Agreement owners who are seeking financial assistance (refer below)

How would the policy and guidelines affect existing Heritage Agreement owners?

In order to offer funding to Heritage Agreement owners, the NVC is required to develop statutory guidelines in accordance with Section 25 of the Act.

As the guidelines are a statutory instrument under the Act, the NVC is required to undertake public consultation.

The guidelines will assist Heritage Agreement owners when applying for financial assistance including what information will need to be provided.

The guidelines also set out the Native Vegetation Council's considerations when appraising applications.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please provide your feedback by: 16 December 2022

Visit YourSAY at:

https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/heritage_agreement_policy

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