

Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Grant Program

Impact report 2022-26



Government of South Australia



Native Vegetation Council

Background

The Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Grant Program was funded by the Government of South Australia and provided **\$7.1 million over four years** to support Heritage Agreement owners in enhancing biodiversity and improving ecological resilience to climate change.

Native Vegetation Heritage Agreements (HAs) are legally binding agreements that are vital for protecting the state's biodiversity, creating crucial wildlife corridors and providing habitat for native plants and animals.

This placemat highlights the significant achievements of the program and the dedication of landholders from 2022-26.

By the numbers



216 grants have been approved sharing **\$4.5 million**



The **Native Vegetation Council** has co-invested and provided **\$1.1 million** to support existing HA owners and **\$2.4 million** in incentive grants for new HAs.



Biodiversity enhanced across **75,329 hectares**



453 site visits by Outreach Officers providing land management advice and assistance with grant applications

- Contributed **\$9.2 million** to SA gross state product, including

- \$6.4 million in household income** and an average of **16.4 jobs annually**

- Contribution to gross regional product ranged from **\$0.1 to \$2.4 million** between Landscapes SA regions:

- between **0.1 to 4 jobs** annually per region
- jobs include local contractors undertaking pest plant and animal control, fencing and revegetation, outreach officers, training providers



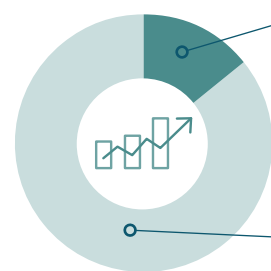
268 people attended one of the eight face-to-face or 13 online **training sessions**. Session were delivered by **Trees For Life**

Heritage Agreement applications

From 2012 to 2019 limited funding was available to support HA owners and an average of 10 applications for new HAs were received annually.

Funding support for HA owners increased from 2019 and applications for new HAs increased to 60 annually.

This is a sixfold increase!



10 applications
2012 to 2019

60 applications
2019 - 2026

Notable projects



Tania Rajic, Limestone Coast NVHA Outreach Officer undertook mapping of two populations of Nationally Vulnerable Lowan Phebalium (*Phebalium lowanense*) at HA 953 near Lowan Vale. Positive to report that a relatively healthy population was recorded.



New carp gates installed at HA 1028 to prevent carp from entering the Templeton (Ramsar) wetland, Murtho Murraylands. Monitoring revealed highest ever number of Southern Bell Frogs and a higher diversity and percentage coverage of plant species than the previous year, which is suggested to be in part due to a lower number of carp.



31 landowners attended a networking event at Cygnet Park Sanctuary HA 1677 on Kangaroo Island where they heard experts from KI Rare Plant Nursery, SA Seed Conservation Centre, Birdlife Australia and a local entomologist. Grant funding provided through the NVHA Grants Program has improved boundary fencing and supported better management of grazing pressure across the sanctuary.

Training session held in Minlaton prior to a site walk at near by HA 1403.



Fencing has been completed its to keep out stock and trespassing 4WDs from HA 1103, near Talia, Eyre Peninsula protecting over 100 hectares of coast and shrublands supporting endangered Hooded Plover.



A grantee survey was undertaken as part of the mid-program evaluation.

Big changes. Stunning results. Lincoln weed has been massively reduced ... We can now manage it with manual control and weed wands.

We have excluded kangaroos and deer ... even after only a season or two there is a noticeable increase in native grasses and small plants. It's very rewarding.

Staff engaged throughout the process after EOI stage added value and made the process a partnership rather than an application.

The program made these activities more achievable, impactful and less isolating. 'Thanks for the funding and the support - you feel pretty alone.'