

Protection of Existing and Proposed Revegetation within a Heritage Agreement under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*

Native Vegetation Council Information Sheet No. 51
September 2015

Background

The *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act) provides for the protection of native planted species (revegetation) within an existing or proposed Heritage Agreement area. This information sheet concerns the protection of existing or proposed revegetation that occurs within a declared or yet to be declared Heritage Agreement area. For information on protection of revegetation outside a Heritage Agreement area, please refer to [information sheet No. 49](#) for protection of **existing** planted natives, and [No. 50 proposed revegetation](#).

Existing or proposed revegetation may be protected under an existing or proposed Heritage Agreement either where naturally occurring native plant species are absent, or in conjunction with naturally occurring native plants.

What types of revegetation will be considered?

Before an application to protect revegetation can be considered, it must be established that the revegetation is representative of the vegetation community that existed on the land prior to European settlement AND that the revegetation has a high likelihood of continued survival.

In determining what is representative of a naturally occurring vegetation community, factors to consider are native plant species diversity, spacing and abundance of individual plant species, and whether representative species from each of the main plant structural layers are present, e.g. from the ground cover, shrub, twiners, and tree layer.

Management obligations and incentives

Applications for protecting existing or proposed revegetation within a Heritage Agreement must be accompanied by a management plan. The management plan may be prepared in conjunction with Native Vegetation Management Unit staff or local Natural Resource Management office staff and should include the following information:

Native Vegetation Management Unit, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources: GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE 5001: phone 8303 9777: email nvc@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation



- For each species, their planting ‘pattern’ e.g. “widely spaced individuals or groups of up to 10 individuals each individual or small group being on average 10 – 50 m apart”; OR “irregularly spaced and shaped clusters of plants each of up to $x\text{ m}^2$ ”; and
- Estimates of projective foliage cover (PFC) at the time of application, and at predicted maturity. PFC is the proportion of the ground covered by the vertical projection of foliage. The following table provides a guide of typical combined PFC for each main structural layer that could be expected in different vegetation types.

Table 1: Range of projective foliage cover for plant structural layers within broad benchmark structural formations

Benchmark structural formation	% Projective foliage cover (PFC) range*		
	Ground Layer < 1m	Shrubs/Sedges > 1m	Trees inc. lower tree layer
Grassland	20 - 50	0 - 20	0 - 5
Woodland with prominent grassy/herbaceous understorey	10 - 50	5 - 40	10 - 30
Mallee (non-heath)	2 - 20	20 - 40	20 - 50
Mallee/Woodland heath (including mallee broombush)	2 - 20	30 - 60	10 - 70
Shrubland (wetland and non-wetland)	5 - 30	30 - 70	0 - 5
Woodland/Open Forest with sclerophyll shrub understorey	5 - 30	30 - 70	20 - 70

*PFC range based on comparable Ecological Vegetation Class benchmarks and Bushland Condition Monitoring benchmarks of the Nature Conservation Society of SA <http://www.ncssa.asn.au/books>

In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the Heritage Agreement, landowners are also required to fulfill management obligations that occur under existing legislation e.g. under the *Natural Resource Management Act 1994*, landholders are required to manage proclaimed pests and weeds.

Funding assistance for active management can be applied for under the Heritage Agreement Scheme (refer [Heritage Agreement Scheme](#)).

How long does the protection last?

The protection of revegetation and any naturally occurring progeny within a Heritage Agreement area, is in perpetuity.

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How is the approved protection registered?

Revegetation within a Heritage Agreement area forms part of a Heritage Agreement between the Minister for Environment and the landholder. The agreement is registered on title.

How to Apply

Application forms can be downloaded from: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/Native_vegetation/Managing_native_vegetation and must be submitted using the Application form provided to:

Native Vegetation Management Unit
Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE 5001
Phone (08) 8303 9777
Email nvc@sa.gov.au

For any queries relating to revegetation of land, contact your local office of Natural Resource Management in the first instance.

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