

Biodiversity Credit Exchange Eyre Peninsula: southern and upper eastern regions

Introduction

The *Native Vegetation Act 1991* can permit vegetation clearance in certain circumstances if the clearance will be offset by the achievement of a Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB).

One of the ways the Native Vegetation Council facilitates offsets is through the Biodiversity Credit Exchange (BCE).

Biodiversity Credit Exchange

The Biodiversity Credit Exchange (BCE) gives eligible landholders access to funding to manage and protect areas of native vegetation on their land in order to generate biodiversity credits.

The biodiversity credits are managed by the Native Vegetation Council and sold to buyers that are required to offset approved vegetation clearances in the same region.

It's a great way for landholders to receive funding to help protect the environment.

Target Areas

The current BCE round is targeting two areas on Eyre Peninsula: southern and upper eastern.

The preference for sites in both target areas is to support species or communities of conservation significance.

Conservation significance refers to: species or vegetation communities listed as rare, threatened, vulnerable or endangered in the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* or (SA) *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Conservation significance also refers to sites that have species and communities that have regional conservation value, identified by Regional Ecologists in DEW and Landscapes SA.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the program your site must:

- be located on land that is owned by you or that you are leasing if you are a pastoral lessee, unless you are an accredited Third Party Provider
- be at least 3 ha in size, however larger sites are favored
- contain moderate levels of remnant native vegetation (e.g. intact upper story but degraded understory)
- be free from conservation covenants or management agreements such as Heritage Agreement and existing Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) sites
- not have proposed or future conditions of use that would prohibit it from being used as a biodiversity site (e.g. easement, land use intensification)

To be eligible for the program you must:

- be able to undertake or arrange activities that will result in an environmental gain e.g. pest control, management of grazing pressure, including overabundant native herbivores.
- be willing to enter into a Heritage Agreement and protect the area in perpetuity
- be able to undertake monitoring e.g. report on activities undertaken and include photos, on an annual basis for 10 years.

If your site and / or project meets the eligibility criteria you are encouraged to apply via expression of interest, see Step 1.

Assessment Criteria

The NVC will prioritise sites for site assessment (Step 2) based on likely alignment with the assessment criteria. The NVC will also use this criteria to assess competitive bids (Step 3).

Assessment criteria:

- alignment with Policy for a Significant Environmental Benefit
- likelihood to meet outcomes of target area
- feasibility and likelihood of achieving an environmental gain
- proposed works are additional to what is required by other legislation (i.e. Landscape South Australia Act 2019) or other projects, such as requirement to control declared pest animals and plants

- land holder experience with managing native vegetation or capacity to employ suitable contractors
- value for money
- location and the likelihood for credits to be used for offsetting
- ability to undertake monitoring and evaluation

How to Apply

Step 1: Consider the area you would like to propose for the BCE. Submit an Expression of Interest form and relevant information to the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board who are working with the NVC to deliver this round of the BCE.

Step 2: Field staff from the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board will visit your site to assess potential credit and management options.

Step 3: Submit a competitive tender bid naming the amount you would like to receive to establish and manage your site.

Step 4: If your bid is successful you will enter into an Heritage Agreement (into perpetuity) and receive staged payments to start managing the site.

If your site is not successful for this BCE round, you may register your interest for a future round or consider listing your site as a potential credit site on the Native Vegetation Credit Register. To find out more, please contact the Native Vegetation Branch.

Frequently Asked Questions

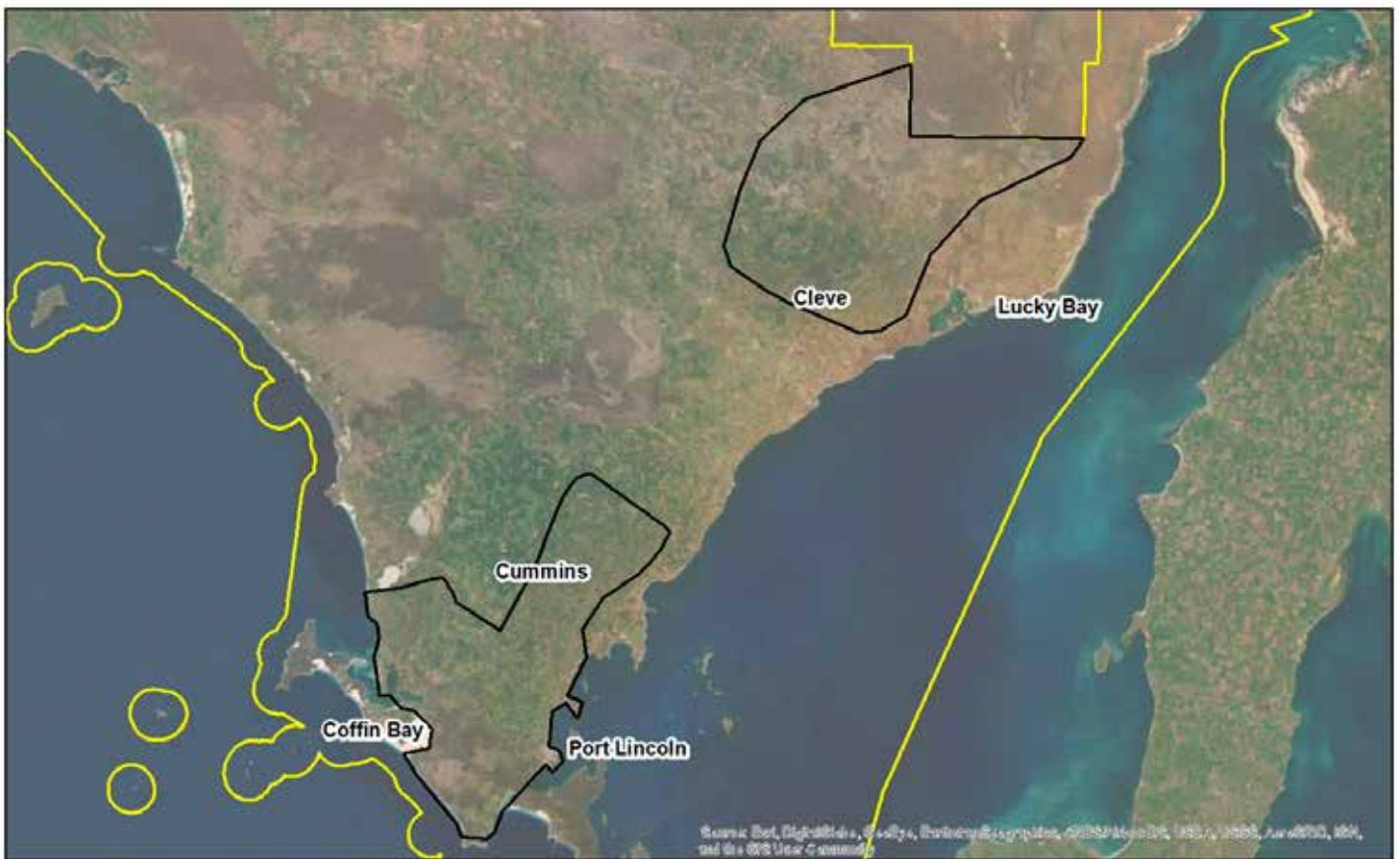
To see a list of FAQ, go to the NVC website www.environment.sa.gov.au/bce

For more information

Contact the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

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The Biodiversity Credit Exchange is a mechanism for the achievement of Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) offset requirements. The program is administered by the Native Vegetation Council and the Department for Environment and Water.



Biodiversity Credit Exchange