



Revegetation project information and guidelines

S2S BushConnect is a revegetation project managed by Holbrook Landcare Network with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust. The project provides on-ground incentives for farmers undertaking revegetation or remnant protection for habitat connectivity primarily in the Woomargama to Benambra (TableTop) landscape and the Morgans Ridge to Nest Hill landscape. Projects between these two priorities may also be considered if there is funding left.

What is eligible?

- All sites considered (no minimum size), but variable incentive rates dependant on the site score
- Improvement of existing project sites as long as they are not under a current management agreement
- Joint projects with neighbours and groups are encouraged

What is not eligible?

- Projects that do not meet the intent of the program (eg. aesthetic driveway plantings)
- Boundary fencing can not be funded, but may be a part of the project
- Planting farm forestry or other plantings for harvest
- Non-indigenous (exotic) plantings
- Projects still under management agreements with HLN or other parties
- Projects from outside the project area —see map overleaf

Incentive rates

Three levels of funding available dependent on the site score

Site Score	Fencing Materials	Plants or Direct seeding	Planting <u>if</u> over 2000 plants	Bonus
HIGH	100% rebate	100% rebate	100% rebate	\$100/ha
MEDIUM	50% rebate	100% rebate	100% rebate	NA
LOW	NA	100% rebate	100% rebate	NA



Intent of the program

Primary aim is to improve the connectivity in the Woomargama to Benambra and Morgans Ridge to Nest Hill landscapes by the following actions in priority order:

- Target sites that increase the connectivity in a landscape according to the Circuitscape model
- Target sites that preserve existing connectivity identified by the Circuitscape model, that is under threat of degradation
- Improve the habitat condition of key strategic sites that they link up (within the specific budget)

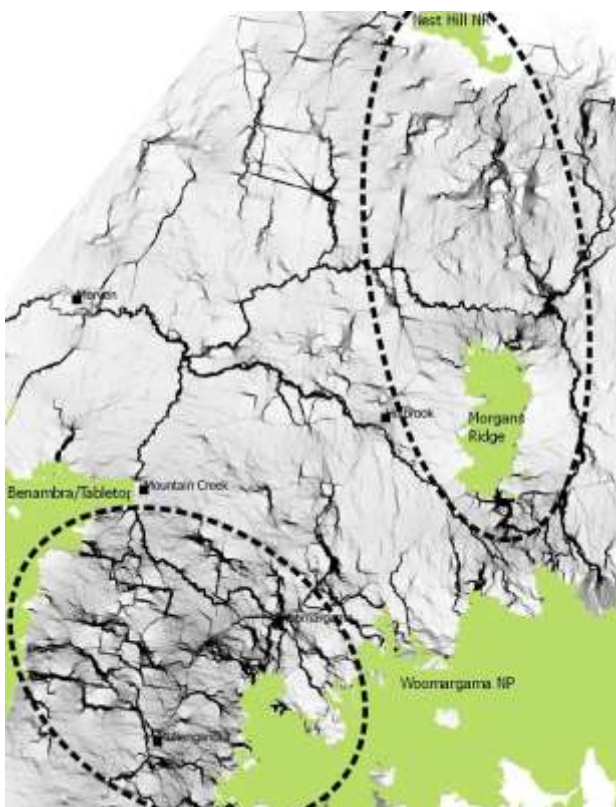
Principles of investment

- Funding is to be targeted to two priority landscapes and projects within these landscapes must be funded before other sites in the mapped area below
- Investment in projects where the per ha cost is greater than the value of the land or over and above the costs of implementing the project may not be good public investment and funding offers may be reduced accordingly.
- All sites are required to have a management agreement with HLN for a minimum 10 years.

Holbrook Landcare Network reserves the right to refuse funding, or re-prioritise eligible projects on the basis of the principles of investment and the intent of the project.

How are projects scored?

- **Connectivity value** : assessed with the modelling tool maps and information from the site visit (50%)
- Risk to the site: Is the connectivity likely to improve or decline over time? (20%)
- **Habitat Values** : Does the site already have habitat values, like old paddock trees in it? (15%)
- **Area:perimeter ratio**: Block plantings = high score versus long,skinny = Lower score (15%)



Priority areas

Projects in the 2 priority areas – Woomargama to Benambra and Morgans Ridge to Nest Hill—will be prioritised for funding, but projects outside of those areas can still apply.

The map represents Circuitscape connectivity modelling that has been undertaken across the region. The darker the area on the map, the higher the connectivity values, so we are looking for sites that either protect high connectivity areas under threat or improve the connectivity values. This may mean filling gaps between the black areas or widening weak connectivity areas.

Outside of the priority area circles, sites in the dark grey to black areas, or linking these areas, can also be considered if funding is available after the priority area projects have been considered.

Minimum Fencing Standards

We recognise that fencing style and effectiveness varies widely on different farms with different livestock, livestock management and stocking rates, but minimum fencing standards are required in order to have some certainty for public funding of infrastructure. The standards for this project are:

- 7 wires minimum, maximum 5m between steel posts
- Fence must meet wildlife-friendly standards with no top barbed wire. You may be asked to exclude barbed wire completely if the site is a high risk area for glider snags
- Gates must be installed to maintain access to any Crown land that may be enclosed by the project ,
- Electric fencing is recommended but fence still must meet the above standard so it is reasonably stockproof when the power is off

Basic conditions of management are:

Landholder must be prepared to enter a management agreement with Holbrook Landcare for a 10 year period. For projects with revegetation, no grazing for the first 5 years to establish the plants and allow any regeneration. After the first 5 years, grazing can occur between February and October for a maximum of four two week periods a year until the end of the agreement. Groundcover must not be less than 70% at any time during the entire agreement term. For projects with no planting the no grazing period is usually the first 12 months.

Weed and pest control and maintenance of the fencing remain your responsibility.

Variations to the standard management agreement may be negotiated depending on site characteristics, and also in response to adverse seasonal conditions.

Plantations Code

If your revegetation is 30ha or over, you may have responsibilities under the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* to register your planting. We can help you with information about this if it applies.

Carbon Credits

Ownership of any potential carbon credits remains with the landowner. We can assist you with information about participating in the Emissions Reduction Fund. You MUST register your project BEFORE its starts to be eligible.

Biodiversity Conservation Trust Act and LLS Act

Any publicly funded works are not eligible to be used as set asides or offsets under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016 for the period of the management agreement. Funded works will be identified on the Native Vegetation Regulatory (NVR) Map as Category 2 land, which means that they are not able to be cleared under the self assessment codes. If you need further advice, please contact the Murray Local Land Services Office on 02 6051 2200.

Applications for 17/18 projects to be in by 31 August 2017.

In general, fencing must be completed by May 2018, and revegetation by 30 September 2018

CONTACT : Kylie or Claire at Holbrook Landcare Network on 02 6036 3181 or 0418198522 or email on kyliedurant@holbrooklandcare.org.au

HOW THE PROCESS WILL WORK

STEP 1. Contact Holbrook Landcare Network (see back page)

STEP 2. Site Visit/s by a Project Officer to develop a project.

You will be advised whether you are eligible to apply for any of the current programs available

STEP 3. To apply you need to:

Finalise fence location so we can produce a final map. If your application is accepted, this map will be used to form the management contract.

Submit an **Application form and Final Map** to HLN.

Applications are assessed and scored and Recommendations for funding go to the HLN Executive Officer for approval against the HLN Board guidelines. If successful you will receive an offer letter

STEP 4. Accept your offer

For HLN agreements, returned management agreement supplied to HLN, signed by the landowner. If the completed project is smaller in size by more than 5%, we may need to issue a new contract and it may change your rebate.

STEP 5. Order your plants and direct seeding as soon as your project is accepted

You will be responsible for submitting the order for your plants. You can decide where to get them from or we can supply an order form for Jayfields Nursery. For direct seeded sites, Holbrook Landcare will coordinate your order

STEP 6. Site preparation and fencing

Ripping, spraying and rabbit control in Autumn

For tubestock sites, deep ripping occur as soon as possible after project approval—ideally should be in the Autumn when profile is dry to get good shattering. Rabbits need to be controlled to protect seedlings either planted or direct seeded. Riplines should be knockdown sprayed in late-Autumn

Pre-planting herbicide spraying in Late Winter/Spring

For tubestock sites riplines should be sprayed with a knockdown herbicide again before planting. If there is a lot of biomass in the sites to be planted or direct seeded, a slash or crash graze may be necessary

STEP 7 Planting July to September

If you are planting yourself, you need to contact your nursery to organise plant pick-up, and get the plants in by the end of September. If your site is being contract planted or direct seeded, the contractors will contact you to arrange a time.

YOU MUST ENSURE THE FENCING IS COMPLETE AND SITE PREPARATION IS DONE BY THE TIME THE CONTRACTORS ARRIVE!!

This includes any herbicide spraying and pest control, especially rabbits

STEP 8. Final site visit and payment