

Creating landscapes which are both productive and ecologically resilient

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Forestry Australia Conference 2024



CASSINIA
ENVIRONMENTAL

Ecological resilience... how much habitat is enough?



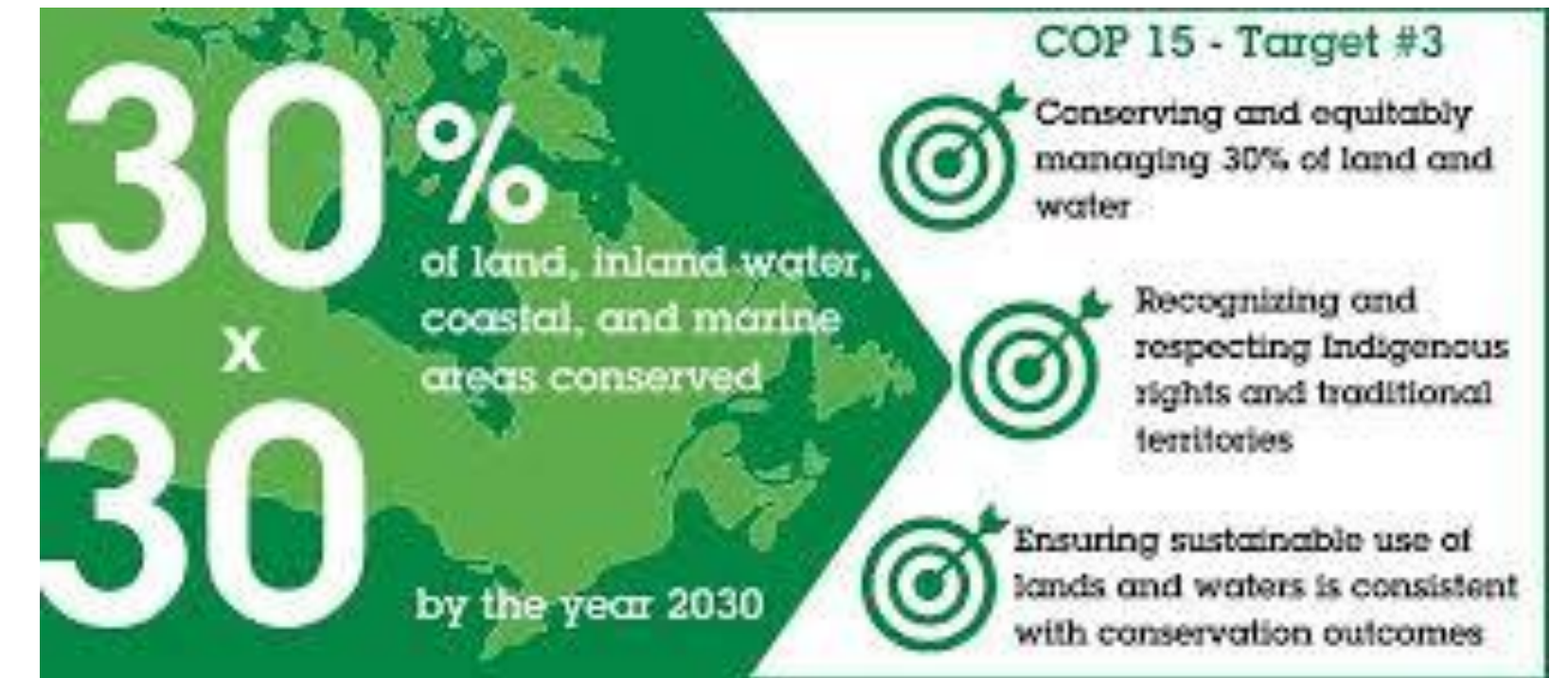
How much habitat is enough?

Planning for wildlife conservation in rural landscapes



“To support most species present in woodland regions in southern Australia, an average of 30-35% native vegetation cover is necessary.”

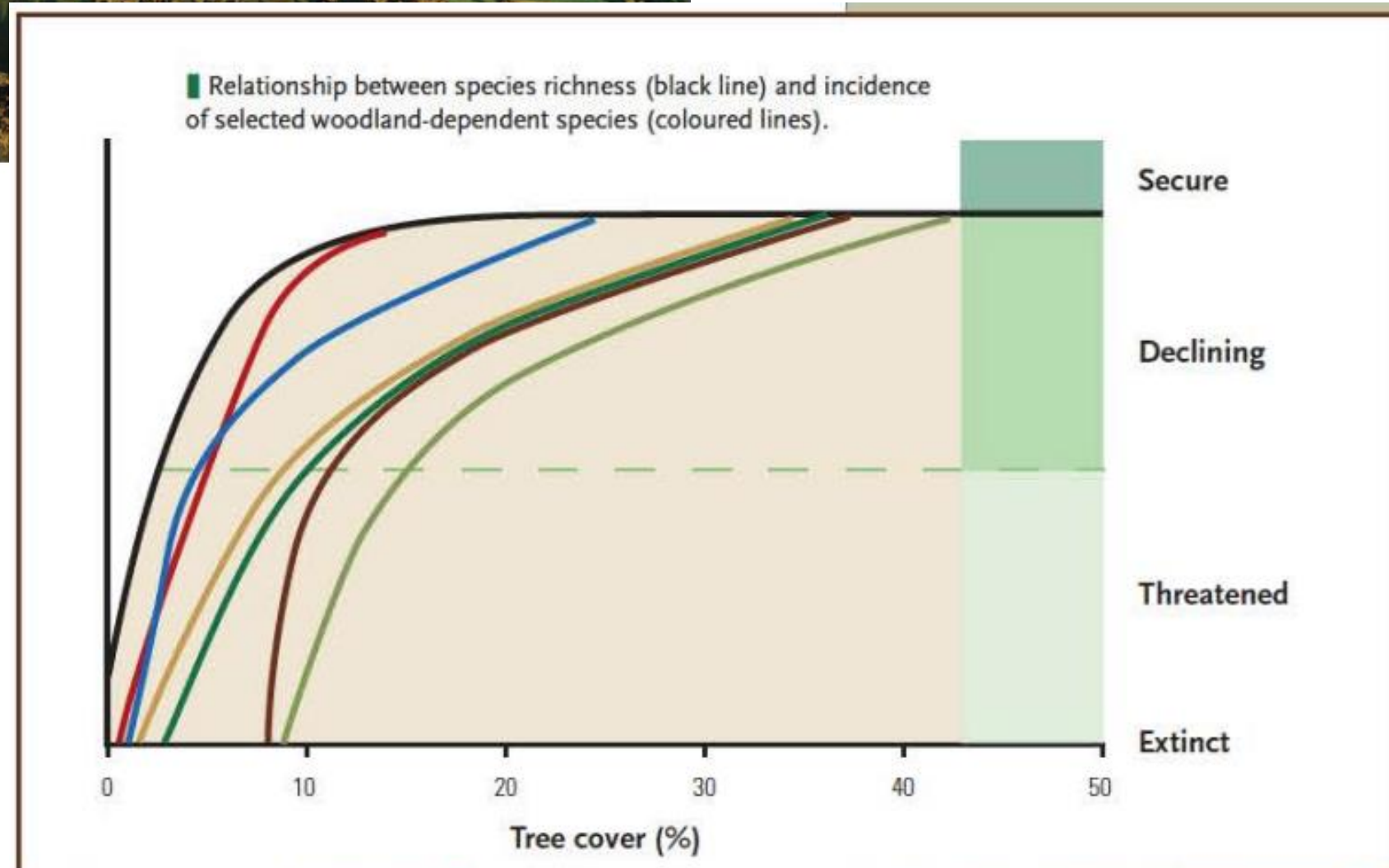
Jim Radford, Andrew Bennett and Lindy MacRaild, 2004



The Australian Government has set a national target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia’s landmass and 30% of Australia’s marine areas by 2030 (the ‘30 by 30’ target).

Around 60% of Australia’s land is privately owned or managed. Private land conservation is essential to contribute to the 30 by 30 land target.

Currently, less than 6% of Australia’s Protected Areas are on private land.



Cassinia properties - creating productive and ecologically resilient landscapes



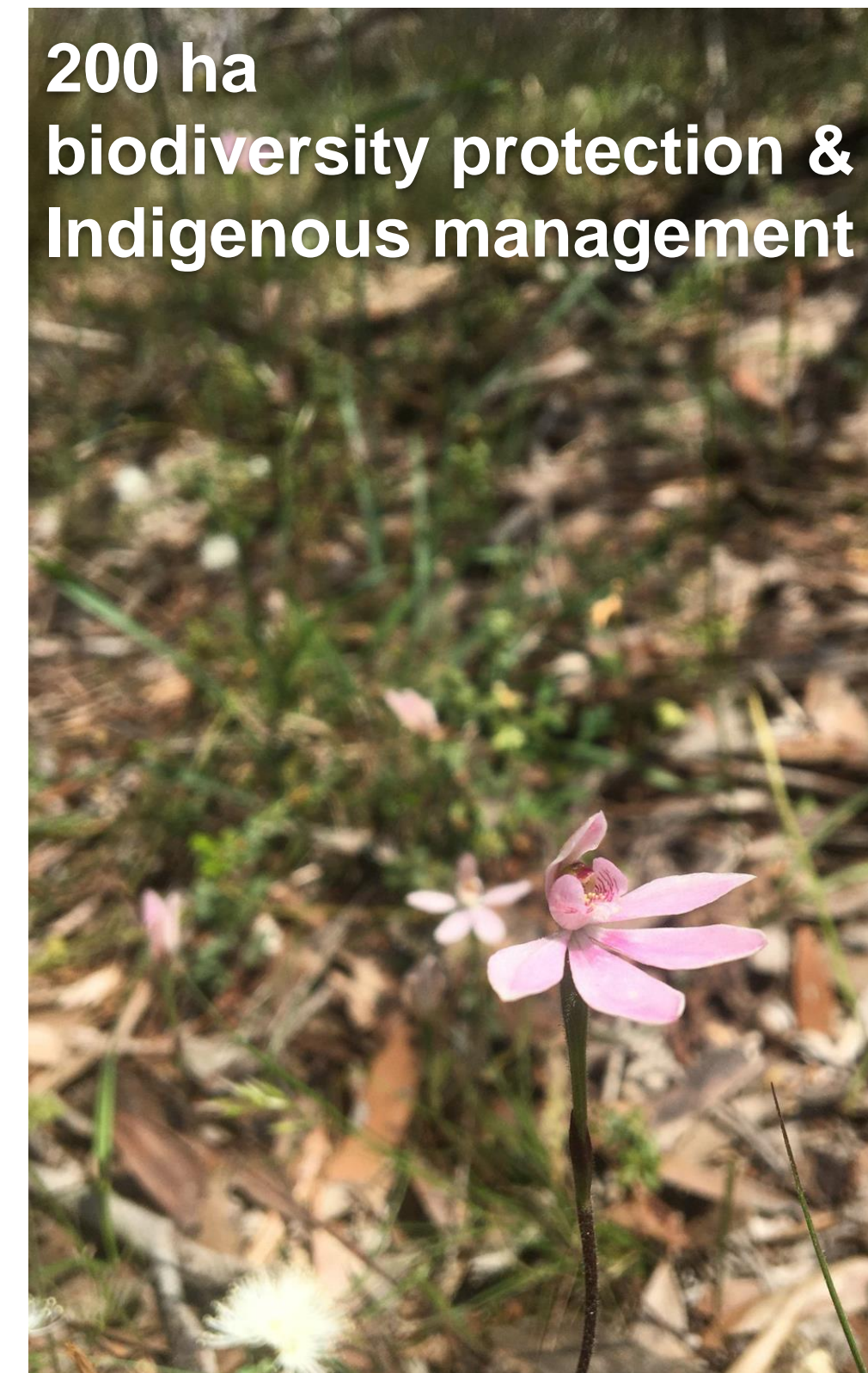
Korong Ridge



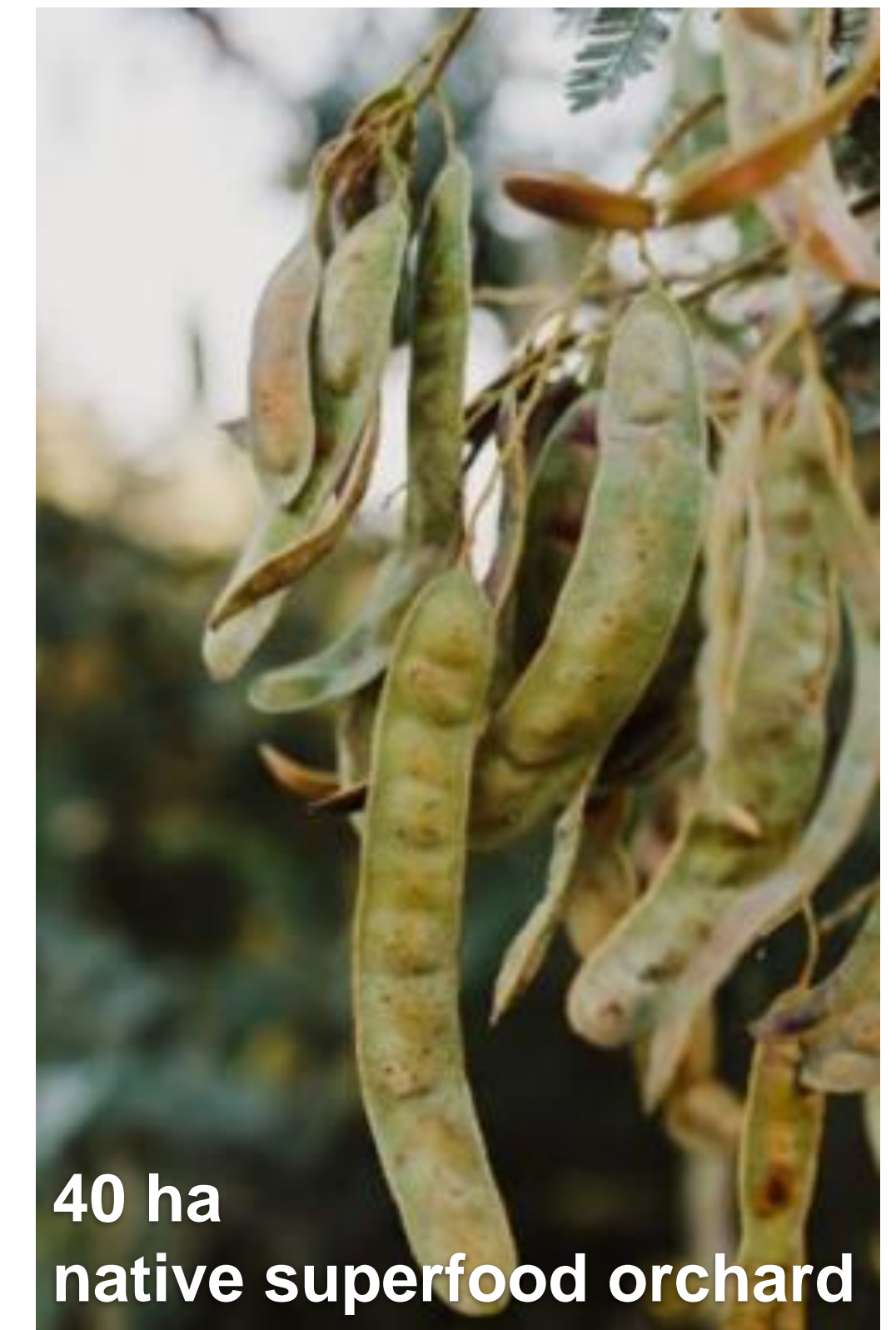
Moonlight Creek



Mount Sandy



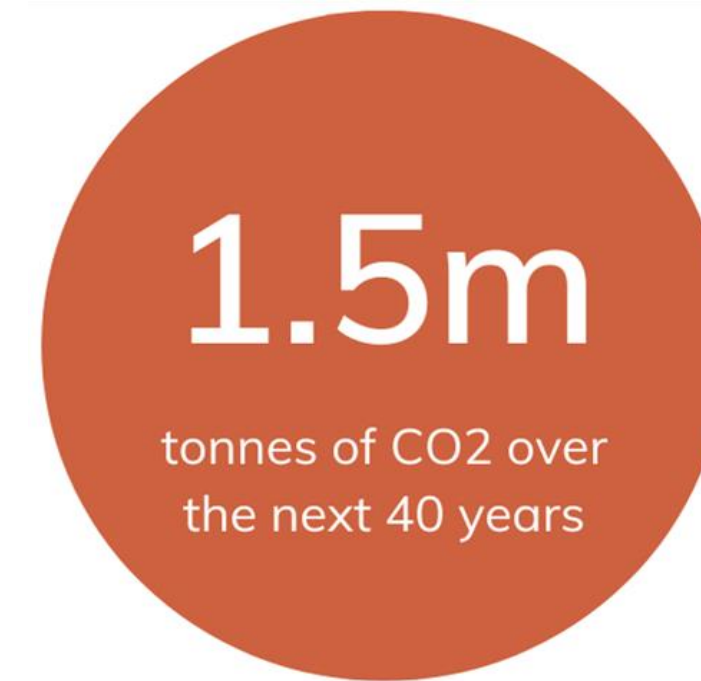
Tarrington Wattle



Cassinia - Transforming Landscapes for Good, Since 2004



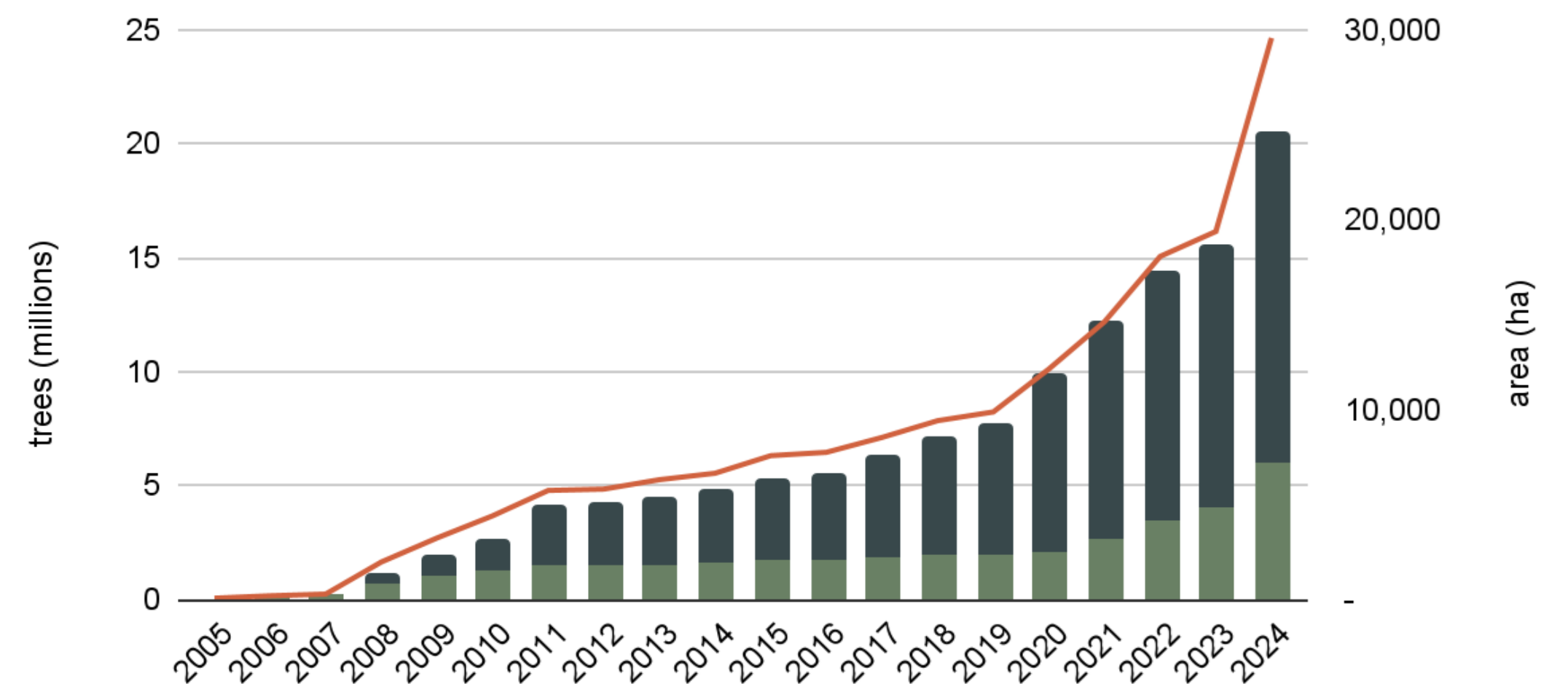
Cassinia has delivered over 110 projects in the past two decades, positively impacting over 29,000 ha (71,660 acres).



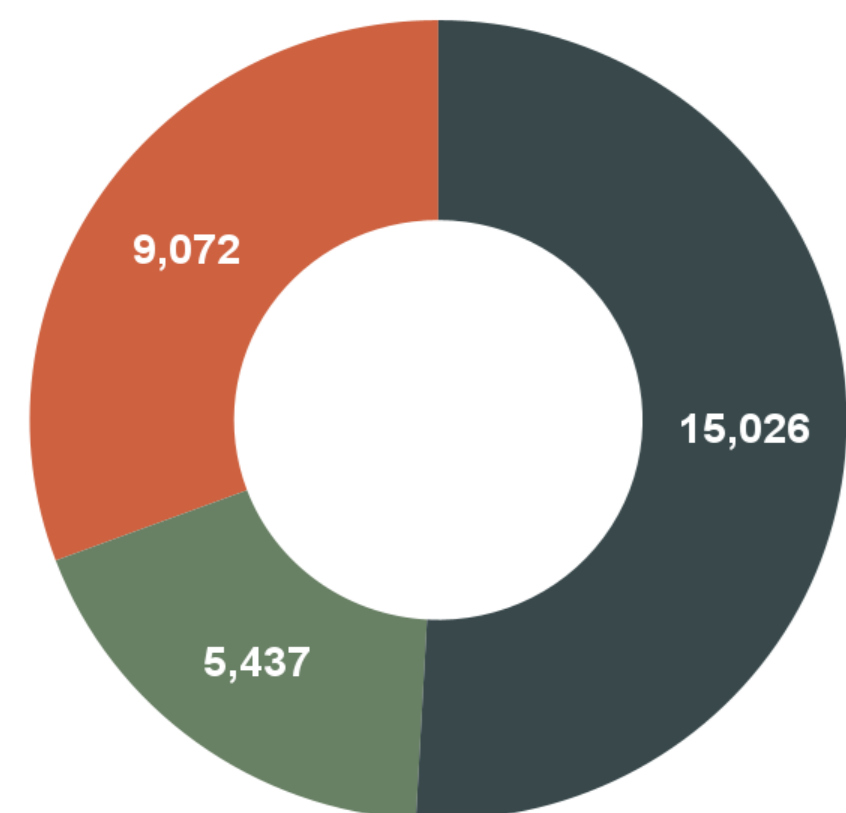
Cassinia's current revegetation projects are projected to sequester almost 1.5 million tonnes of CO2 over the 40 years following initial planting

Cassinia Environmental: Trees and Area Impacted

— area protected / restored, cumulative ■ remnant trees protected, cumulative
■ new trees planted, cumulative



Total Area Impacted by State (ha)



● VIC
● NSW
● SA

- 42+** Rare or endangered fauna species protected
- 375** Rare or endangered flora species protected
- 18** Rare or endangered vegetation classes

Trust for Nature's largest covenantor with over 12,000 hectares under permanent conservation agreements in Victoria alone.

Key delivery partner - BushBank Private Land Stream



The Victorian Government has allocated \$77 million towards BushBank

- Meets targets in Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037
- Key objectives of carbon capture and biodiversity protection
- Delivered under 3 streams – First Peoples, Public land, Private land

Private Land Stream - \$30.9 million

- 20,000 hectares of land restored and protected with a TfN conservation covenant
- First Peoples engagement
- Minimum restoration standards to be met
- Variety of land access and funding models
- Financial incentives for landowners



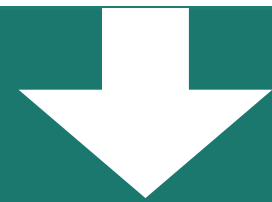
1540 ha BushBank Site in north-west Victoria - lines ripped, planted and direct seeded

Mechanisms to achieve the 20,000 hectare target



Landowner participation

Partnering with landowners seeking to establish native biodiverse-carbon plantings on their land



- to enhance biodiversity values on farms
- to provide connection of existing vegetation across farms and the landscape
- to buffer waterways and improve water quality
- to grow trees and shrubs as carbon stores
- to generate carbon credits for future sale

Land purchase

Land purchased on the open market by Cassinia Environmental or BushBank Revolving Fund



- DEECA pre-approval on project proposals
- Project proposals negotiated with interested investors
- Degraded land restored
- Productive farming land retained
- Land on-sold with a conservation covenant

Collaboration – vital to meeting our targets



Program delivery partners



Co-funding partners



Delivery partners



Plus many more as the program grows!

BushBank eligibility and target areas



BushBank Eligibility Criteria

- Freehold and owned by a private individual or entity
- Minimum of 10 hectares of land for restoration
- Revegetation of predominantly woody vegetation, including some degraded and intact remnants
- No existing obligations to restore land
- Willingness to put a Conservation Covenant on the land

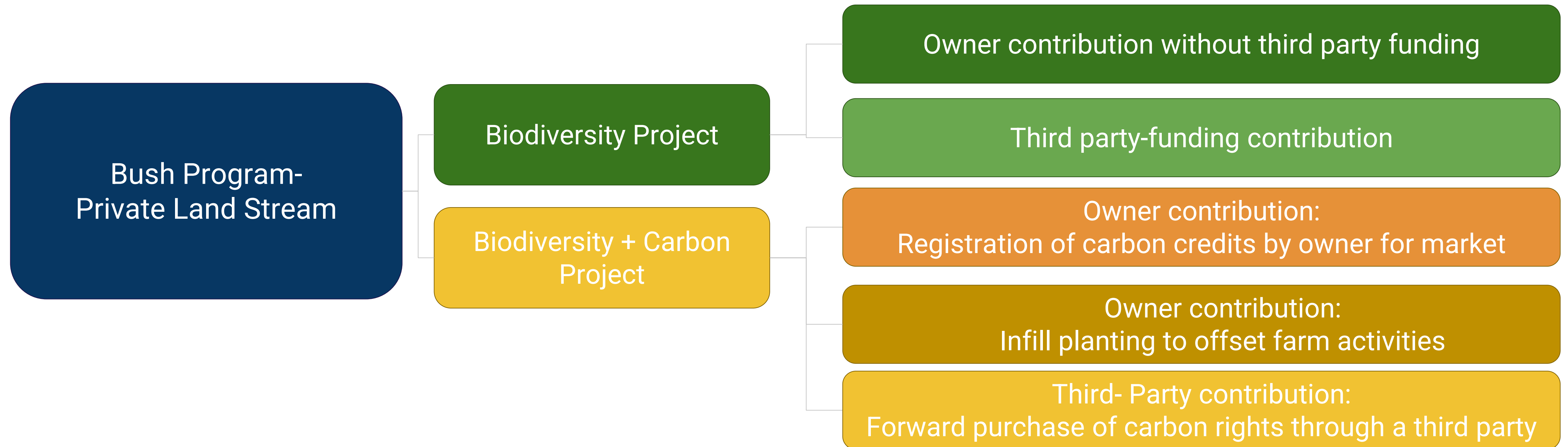
Other factors considered for selection:

- project size,
- benefits to threatened species,
- co-benefits for community,
- co-benefits for indigenous people's aspirations,
- landscape context and connectivity,
- protection of waterways, and
- buffering of public conservation reserves.



DEECA BushBank Target Landscape Map - darker green areas provide greater benefits to biodiversity and/or carbon sink.

BushBank program funding models



Every project is unique!

All projects receive the BushBank contribution which is determined by the landscape value of the site - carbon + biodiversity

Not all projects are suitable for all funding options - eg. carbon co-funders often specify minimum project areas and carbon values

Cassinia will coordinate project funding and agreements with landowners on behalf of the Victorian Government and co-funders.

BushBank restoration actions and standards



Minimum standards of restoration are based on the local Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) as the benchmark.

Survival rates (stems per hectare and species diversity within each lifeform group) to be achieved within project timeframe.



Revegetation- Direct seeding and/or hand planting of tubestock seedlings on land containing no native vegetation



Supplementary planting- Supplementary planting in gaps where there is no or limited chance of natural regeneration within areas of degraded native vegetation

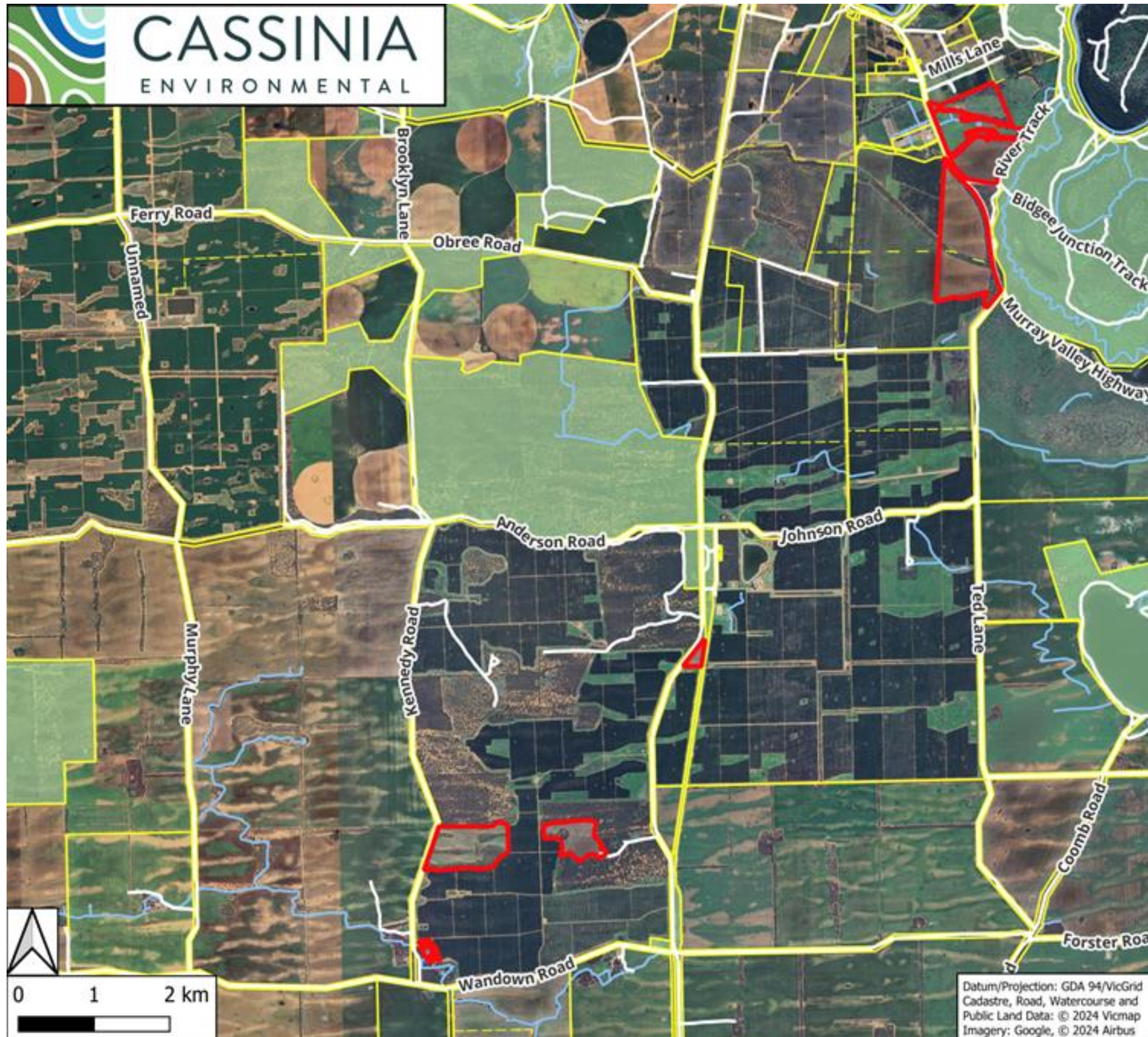


Assisted regeneration- areas are actively managed to facilitate regeneration including through stock exclusion, herbivory control, and pest and weed management



Enhanced remnant- Removing or suppressing ecological threats within intact native vegetation.

BushBank example - self-funded carbon project



Mixed horticulture business looking to:

- Offset on farm activities and sell remaining carbon credits on the market
- Promote sustainable farming image

278 hectare BushBank project includes:

- Revegetating low productivity land
- Protection of remnant vegetation



Progress update - BushBank Private Land Stream



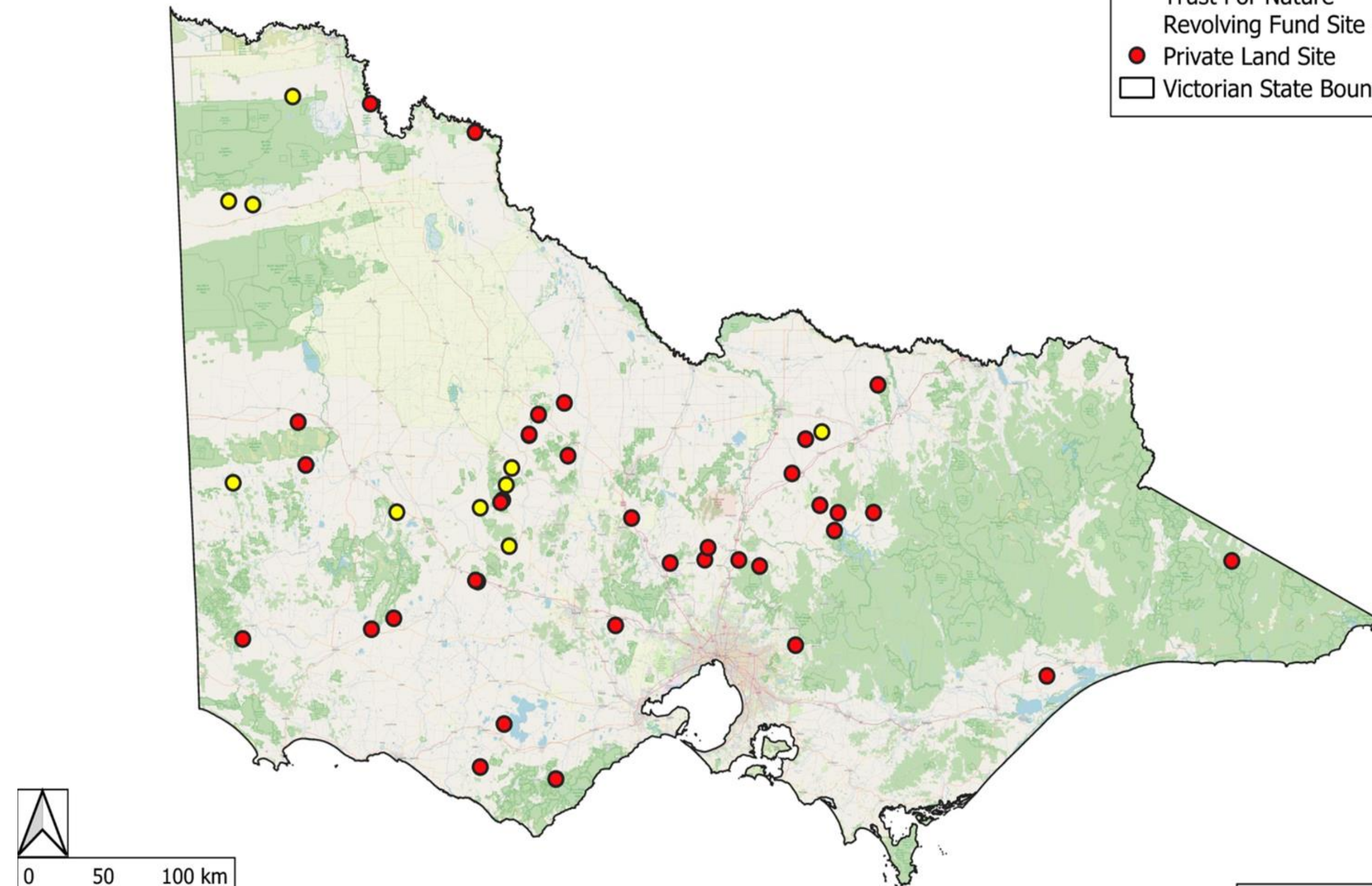
43 sites in progress

- 33 private properties
- 5 Cassinia properties
- 5 BushBank Revolving Fund properties.

2,879 hectares of land have been restored across 9 sites, with an additional 2,867 hectares slated for revegetation in 2025 and beyond.

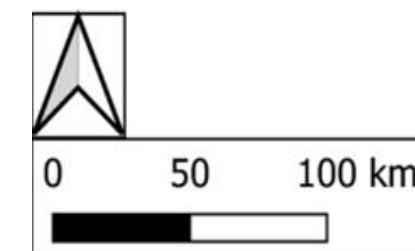
Total co-funding secured is \$5.58 million

772 kg of native seed and 68,760 seedlings were sourced and planted this season, over 54% of the seed was supplied by First Peoples groups.

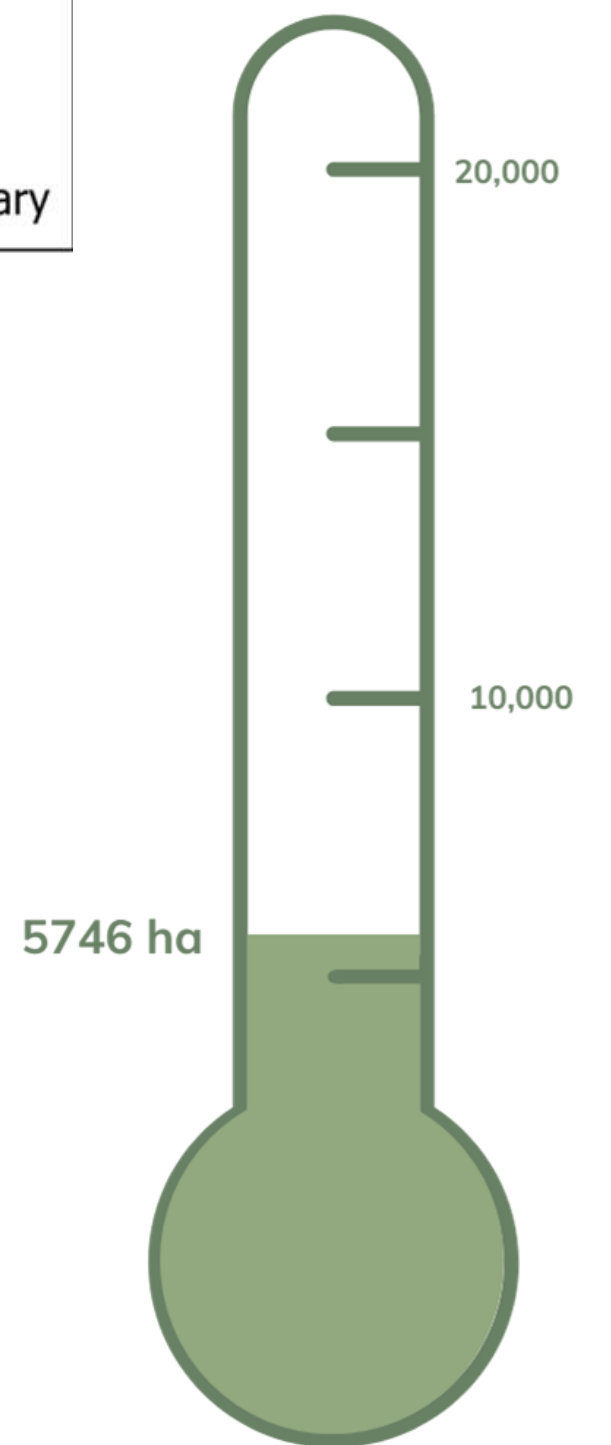


Legend

- Cassinia-owned or Trust For Nature Revolving Fund Site
- Private Land Site
- Victorian State Boundary



Datum/Projection: GDA 94/VicGrid
Imagery: © OpenStreetMap



Get involved - express interest in a project



- Read the Landowner Project Guidelines
- Read further information on the project
- Submit an Expression of Interest
- Selection panel meets quarterly

www.cassinia.com/bushbank

Support

Questions about the program and help with submitting an EOI is available.

Phone: 1300 572 164

Email: bushbank.partner@cassinia.com





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