

Heritage Agreements

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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Government of South Australia

Department for Environment and Water



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What is a Heritage Agreement?

The Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement program/ scheme, is commonly known as the Heritage Agreement program, or HA for short.

The Heritage Agreement program is managed by the Native Vegetation Council and Native Vegetation Management team in the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

Why are Heritage Agreements important?

Since 1980, Heritage Agreements have been helping to protect and restore important native bushland across South Australia, and the ecosystems that depend on them. Over this time, more than 2,800 landholders have joined the Heritage Agreement program and thereby have agreed to ensure the long-term protection of 1.8 million hectares of the state's native vegetation.

In South Australia, Heritage Agreements are a proven way to support private landowners to protect important bushland and achieve conservation outcomes that benefit the state and the landholders. Improving native vegetation on private land protects and enhances biodiversity and improves landscape sustainability through enhanced water and soil condition.

What is the Heritage Agreement program?

The HA program currently operates through the release of grants to landholders to identify and achieve conservation outcomes.

What are the benefits of becoming a Heritage Agreement landholder?

Contributing to protecting South Australia's natural biodiversity and native bushland

By becoming a Heritage Agreement landholder, you are supporting the protection and enhancement of South Australia's native bushland and precious biodiversity of fauna and flora. Native animals, in particular threatened species, rely on pockets and corridors of native vegetation as refuge and habitat. By entering into an Heritage Agreement, you are ensuring your piece of bushland is looked after in perpetuity.

Release from rates and taxes

Once your property or portion of land is registered on title, you may be able to access a rate reduction. The State Valuation Office or your Local Council can advise further on questions relating to rates and taxes relief.

Bush management advice

As a landholder who is managing a Heritage Agreement area you will become eligible for advice and financial assistance from groups such as the Revitalising Conservation on Private Land grants program, Local Councils funding programs, or other sources for such tasks as weed and pest control, restoration planting and more.

Would my land be eligible to enter into a Heritage Agreement?

What land can be put under a Heritage Agreement?

Many unique natural features are found on privately owned land. The property may form part of an important wildlife corridor, or act as a buffer to a neighbouring National or Conservation Reserve, or private sanctuaries.

As a quick start guide, your property needs to be at least one hectare, or have records of a threatened species if it's less than one hectare. Having a natural interest in native bushland and protecting biodiversity is helpful as protecting native bushland long-term is one of the main reasons landholders enter into a Heritage Agreement.

How do I set up a Heritage Agreement?

If a landholder meets the basic eligibility above, then the landholder submits a **simple form**, to the Native Vegetation Branch, which includes some details such as property location, size of area, type of vegetation present and any other special information such as fauna and flora known and/ or threatened species present. A summary of what's important or special about the property is also helpful to the assessment team.

Once your property is assessed by the staff in the Native Vegetation Branch, they will contact you to talk through the next steps towards establishing a Heritage Agreement. To ensure that HA areas are protected for future generations they are registered on title. All HA's are considered in-perpetuity.



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For further information see **Schedule 1 of the Native Vegetation Regulations.**

What are my responsibilities and obligations if I am a Heritage Agreement landholder?

Do Heritage Agreements cover the whole property?

Every Heritage Agreement is unique - the size and shape and terms of agreement will depend on what is being protected and the landholder's aspirations. A HA can apply to the whole property, or a portion of a property. Landholders can include exclusion areas to accommodate a house site or access track.

The landholder continues to own and manage their land once a Heritage Agreement is in place. The Native Vegetation Branch can provide advice when needed and The Friends of Private Bushland provide assistance to members in managing private land conservation, and may be of value to a new HA landholder.

Are there costs associated with entering into a Heritage Agreement?

For Heritage Agreements entered into voluntarily by a landholder, the Native Vegetation Council meets the costs associated with the negotiation, drafting and registration of the Heritage Agreement are there to help set up the Agreement and to provide start-up and ongoing advice on how to manage your property, as needed.

How do I access the Revitalising Conservation on Private land Program grant offering?

The current release of grants offers funding across two categories:

1. Small grants of under \$10,000
2. Large grants of over \$10,000

Landholders are welcome to apply across both categories.

For further information on how to access the grants visit

www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/protecting-enhancing/heritage-agreements

What types of things does the Revitalising Conservation on Private Land Program grants cover?

The grants can be used to improve the biodiversity of your site through repairing fences, undertaking weed control works, pest animal and overabundant herbivore control works and in some cases management plans to guide on ground works to produce a good biodiversity outcome.

What can I do within my Heritage Agreement?

Most activities such as horse riding, walking dogs etc are allowed, unless the intensity and location are damaging the native fauna and flora. Low impact camping is allowed. Eco-tourism and caravans require approval from NVC.

Can I drive through my Heritage Agreement?

You can drive through a Heritage Agreement on tracks that are existing. Off-track driving is not allowed.

What is prohibited in a Heritage Agreement?

- Native vegetation removal.
- The introduction of non-indigenous vegetation- whether through seed or tube-stock, and including non-local native species sources from outside the ecological district of the Heritage Agreement.
- Grazing by livestock.
- Human-related impact to water quality, flow or quantity.
- The introduction of pest fauna and flora.
- The removal of timber.
- The disturbance of soils and rocks
- The application of fertiliser
- Pasture establishment
- Recreational use of trail bikes or other vehicles.

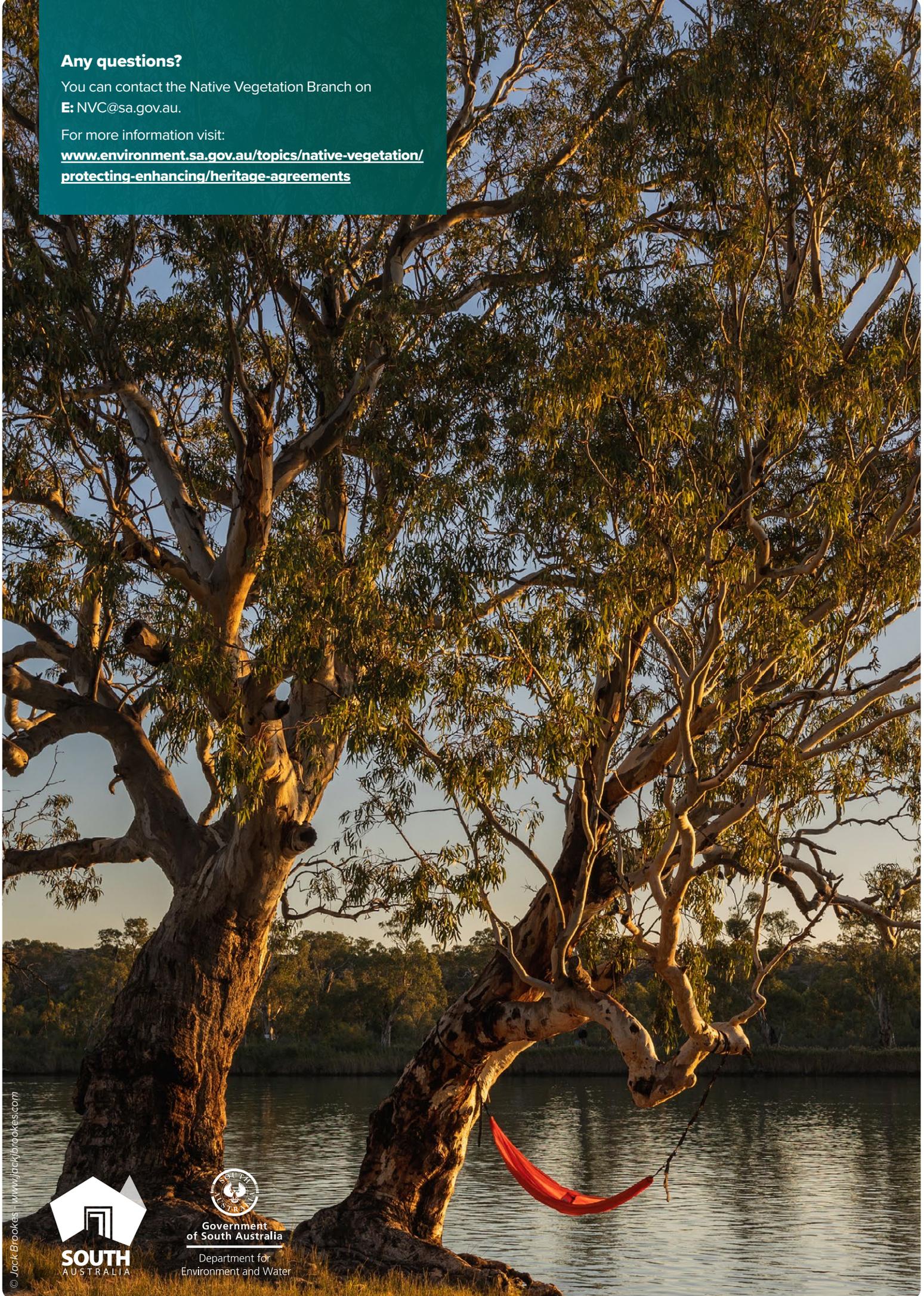
While these are standard restrictions, in certain circumstances they can be modified by the NVC and the Minister.

Any questions?

You can contact the Native Vegetation Branch on
E: NVC@sa.gov.au.

For more information visit:

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/
protecting-enhancing/heritage-agreements](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation/protecting-enhancing/heritage-agreements)



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