

## ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE HERITAGE AGREEMENT AREA?

Any activity which may damage native flora and fauna in a Heritage Agreement area requires the Minister's approval before it can be carried out.

This includes clearance for tracks or the construction of buildings.

The planting of vegetation, whether native or exotic, also requires Ministerial consent.

The Minister is likely to give approval when, on balance, the activity will benefit the conservation of the area.

Examples are revegetating degraded areas with native species from the Heritage Agreement area, and minimal clearance along a fenceline necessary to maintain the fence in stock-proof condition or to allow effective rabbit control.

## ABOUT HERITAGE AGREEMENTS...

### Right of public access to Heritage Agreement land

There is no right of public access to Heritage Agreement areas.

### The land is not sold

The land under Heritage Agreement remains the property of the landholder.

### If you sell the Heritage Agreement area

The Heritage Agreement remains in place so that your efforts to conserve the area are ongoing.

### Responsibility for weed and feral animal control

All landholders must continue to abide by Acts such as the Natural Resources Management Act, 2004.

The landholder's legal responsibilities to control weeds and feral animals and deal with other management issues in the Heritage Agreement area remain unchanged.

## SOME LANDHOLDER COMMENTS ABOUT THEIR HERITAGE AGREEMENT AREAS:

**"Native vegetation makes a healthy relaxed area"**

**"Enjoy walking and observing regeneration"**

**"Increasing wildlife. Secluded area"**

**"Like its beauty"**

**"Natural windbreaks. Wildlife habitat"**

**"Shelter and solitude"**

**"I realise the importance of ecosystem services i.e. the clean water these areas provide for not only me but others"**

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**Application forms and further information about Heritage Agreements are available from our website at:**

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

**or by contacting:**

Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Unit  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Phone (08) 8303 9777

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# THE HERITAGE AGREEMENT SCHEME



Keeping our future alive



Department of  
Environment and  
Natural Resources



Government  
of South Australia

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

**This Scheme provides protection for wildlife habitat and native vegetation by means of Heritage Agreements.**

## WHAT IS A HERITAGE AGREEMENT?

A Heritage Agreement area is a **private** conservation area.

### The agreement

Heritage Agreements are established by agreement between the landholder and the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

### Protection of native plants and animals

The Heritage Agreement contract specifies that the indigenous plants and animals in the Heritage Agreement area are to be protected from the time the agreement is made.

### Binding nature of Agreements

Heritage Agreements are binding on future landholders and are on-going i.e. perpetual.

### Number of Heritage Agreements

There are now more than 1400 Heritage areas throughout the State covering some 600 000 hectares and numbers are steadily growing. The current Heritage Agreements range in size up to 50 000 hectares.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO THE LANDHOLDER OF ENTERING INTO A HERITAGE AGREEMENT?

### Long term protection

The main advantage is that landholders can protect important bushland in perpetuity.

### Fencing assistance

Landholders may be provided with stock fencing, if this is necessary to protect the vegetation.

### Heritage Agreement Grant Scheme

Landholders are eligible to apply for assistance with management works aimed at protecting and improving the conservation value of the Heritage Agreement area.

### Bushland Management advice

Advice on managing bushland is available from the Department for Environment and Heritage.

### Releases from rates and taxes

The landholder is released from rates and taxes on the Heritage Agreement land.

*Note: This does not apply to exclusion areas or house sites.*

**The Heritage Agreement Scheme is administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of the Native Vegetation Council.**

**The Heritage Agreement Scheme is one of a number of private land conservation schemes offered by the State Government.**

## HOW DOES AN AREA BECOME HERITAGE AGREEMENT LAND?

### Application

The landholder starts the process with an application sent to the Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Unit.

### Aerial photography

Once the application has been received a title check is made and digitally rectified aerial photography obtained for the area proposed for Heritage Agreement.

### On-site visit

By arrangement with the landholder, the site is visited by a biologist and the condition of the bushland is assessed for its biological and habitat value.

If the biological value of the area is high, the Native Vegetation Council advises the Minister for Environment and Conservation to enter into the Heritage Agreement.

### Legal and technical requirements

The Heritage Agreement documentation and the drafting of the plan of the Heritage Agreement area are then completed in consultation with the landholder.

### Heritage Agreement boundaries

The boundaries of each Heritage Agreement area are defined either by sections or, if part of a section, by a specially prepared registered plan.

### Registration on title

The existence of the Heritage Agreement is registered on the title to the land.