

BUSHBANK PROGRAM

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT
MAY 2026

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/bushbank>

Acknowledgement

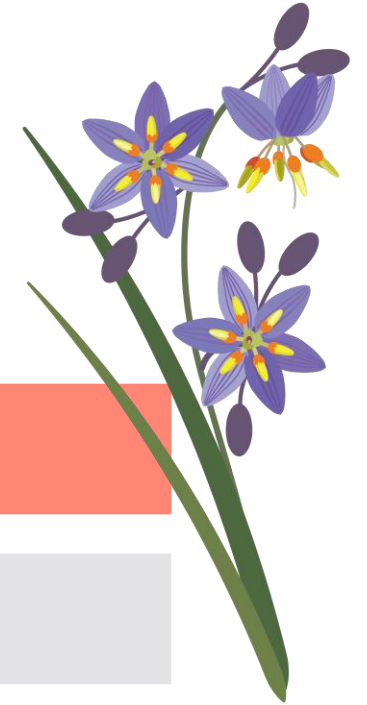
We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



BUSHBANK PROGRAM



Program streams



Total number of BushBank projects

Stream	Round/year commenced	Total active projects	Total completed projects
Private land	Private landowner projects	25	0
	Cassinia holding projects	10	0
	Revolving Fund projects	12	0
Public land grants	Round 1: 2021/22	10*	7
	Round 2: 2023/24	7	0
Traditional Owner grants	Round 1: 2022/23	12**	9
Seed sector grants	2024/25	8	0

* 2 projects were cancelled

** 1 project was cancelled

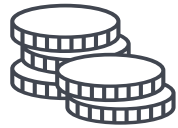
BUSHBANK PROGRAM



Key achievements



5,283 hectares of land restored



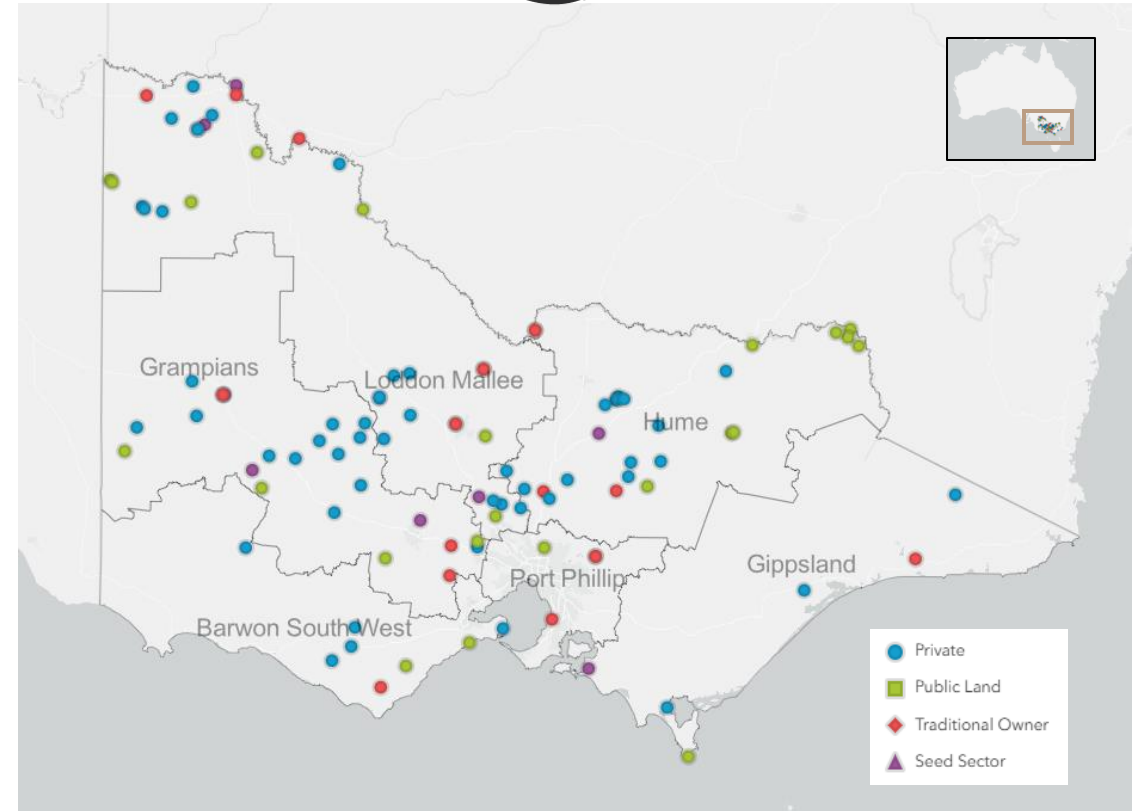
\$13.6 million co-funding secured to restore private land



14 Traditional Owner groups supported

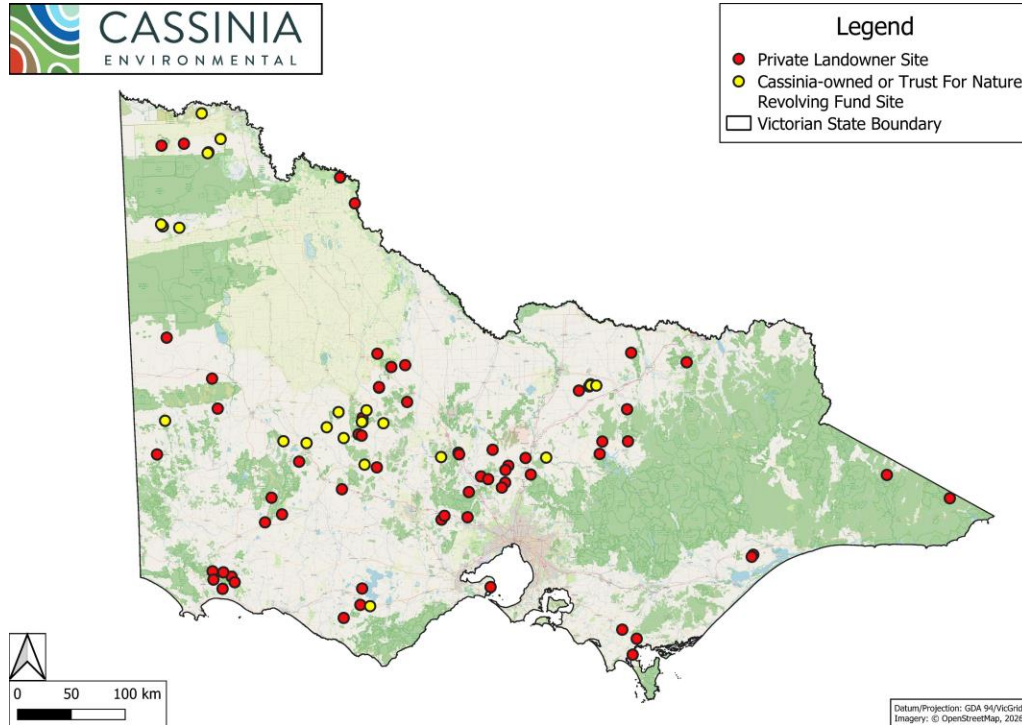


0.56 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent removed from atmosphere by 2045...that's equivalent to 111,840 cars off the road!



Map of all current (May 2026) BushBank program projects/grants by stream.

Private land



Map of all private land stream project sites as of May 2026.

Highlights:

- 2,291 hectares of land were restored in the 2025 season. This included 240,783 seedlings planted and 797 kg of seed sown.
- First Peoples organisations supplied 23% of the seed used in the 2025 revegetation season.
- Cassinia launched the BushBank Budj Bim Koala Habitat Restoration Project: a dedicated project designed to restore koala habitat near Budj Bim National Park.

Goal: 20,000 hectares land
restored by 2037

4,817ha restored
5,758 ha secured

9,425 ha remaining

Currently over 50% achieved

- Cassinia Environmental is the delivery partner for the private land stream of the BushBank Program
- Private land is selected to prioritise biodiversity and carbon benefits, and is protected forever by Trust For Nature covenants
- Private land property is purchased either via:
 - Private land owner sign up
 - Through an \$8 million Bushbank Revolving Fund, administered by Trust for Nature
 - Cassinia Environmental entities

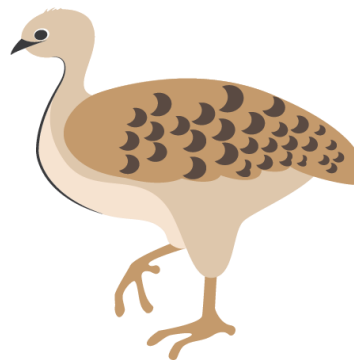
Private land

Environmental planting at Cobram Estate

By 2027, this project aims to restore 277.6 hectares – including over 210 hectares of revegetation and 67 hectares of remnant vegetation protected. It is estimated to sequester up to 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over a 25-year period. Additionally, this project is registered under the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) scheme.

As a BushBank-funded project, the site is protected under a Trust for Nature conservation covenant. These covenants are legally enshrined to permanently protect habitat on private land with natural, cultural or scientific values, even when property is bought and sold.

The project has worked successfully in partnership with local Landcare groups and restoration experts. With initial plantings commenced in 2024, the project will continue to put plants in the ground until 2027 with funding support from the BushBank program.



This site is comprised of unique riverine Chenopod woodland and Woorinen sands mallee vegetation, prime habitat for the vulnerable Malleefowl.



Cobram Estate's Boundary Bend grove in the Mallee region of north-west Victoria



Cobram Estate's BushBank project restoration site Boundary Bend in the Mallee region. Tati Tati, Latji Latji, Dadi Dadi, and Wadi Wadi Country.

Credit: Trudy Nelsson, Trust for Nature

Source: <https://cassinia.com/the-bushbank-program-environmental-planting-at-cobram-estate/>

Public land grants

- \$6.8 million has been committed across two rounds of grants to restore degraded public land.
- \$2.3 million was first committed in Round 1 in 2021-22 for 19 projects (2 were later terminated). \$4.5 million was committed in Round 2 in 2023-24 for 7 projects.
- Projects include seed collection, site preparation, planned burns, planting, monitoring, and replanting as required.

Highlights

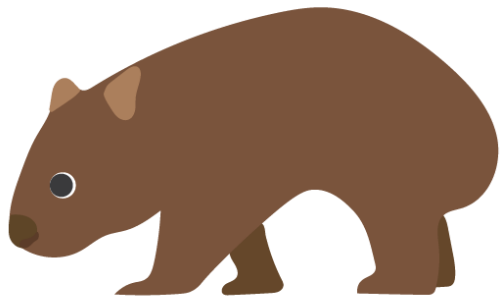
- 214 hectares of public land was restored across 6 projects in the 2025-26 planting season, including at Wodonga Regional Park, Clarksdale Reserve and Berbrook State Forest
- Since projects commenced in 2022, 424 hectares in total have been restored, with 0.03 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent removed from the atmosphere by 2045

Public land grants

Mount Macedon Plantation Restoration

By 2029, 70 hectares of native vegetation, previously managed as pine plantation, has been funded by BushBank for revegetation and weed removal. The DEECA-managed project site will deliver significant carbon sequestration benefits, improve biodiversity and habitat connectivity, and manage invasive species to ensure long term success of the area.

In 2025, approximately 22,685 seedlings were planted, and propagation of tree species has commenced for the plantings in the year ahead. A community planting event involving 35 volunteers resulted in 1,500 native plants in the ground.



Additionally, a browser exclusion fence has been installed, with 4 wombat gates constructed around sites, facilitating wildlife movement while ensuring planting survival by excluding browsing species.

Continued plantings of tree and understorey species are scheduled for winter in 2026 and 2027, ensuring the ongoing health of the Macedon environment.



Mount Macedon, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.



Top: Planting day at Mount Macedon, 2025. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.

Credit: Nancy Peplo, DEECA

Bottom: Rainbow over 2 month old seedlings at Mount Macedon. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.

Credit: Michelle Bassett, DEECA

Traditional Owner grants

- BushBank has allocated \$14.5 million for Traditional Owners and First Peoples. This funding is delivered in grants over 10 years (2022 – 2032).
- The first round of funding was delivered in 2022-23, consisting of 21 projects, one of which was terminated.
- Grants were offered in 2 streams:
 - Foundational to build capacity or capability – 9 projects, of which 4 have been completed
 - Place-based to deliver on-ground activities – 12 projects, of which 5 have been completed



Highlights:

- 9 projects completed, including Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation completing a wetlands biodiversity study, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation performing restoration monitoring using drones, and The Trustee for Djandak Fixed Trust expanding their seed production area.

Traditional Owner grants



A variety of native seedlings being grown in the Wunwarren Yanggardi nursery, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, January 2026
Credit: Taungurung Land and Waters Council

Wunwarren Yanggardi nursery, Taungurung Land and Waters Council (Aboriginal Corporation)

Through the development of the Wunwarren Yanggardi nursery (meaning 'green, lush, rich growth walkabout' in language), Taungurung Land and Waters Council are better placed to participate in revegetation and landscapes restoration works and are well on the way to reconnecting with key species and culturally significant landscapes.

The development of the Wunwarren Yanggardi nursery involved setting up seed collection, cleaning, storage and germination space and to build a wholesale indigenous plant nursery, supplying 30-40,000 plants at capacity. In addition, a seed and nursery strategy as well as a long-term business plan were developed to compliment the infrastructure.

The completion of this project in December 2025 came at the opportune time to allow Taungurung Land and Waters Council the chance to engage in healing Country after fires impacted the landscape.



Wunwarren Yanggardi nursery,
Taungurung Country



Seed sector grants

- To strengthen the Victorian seed sector, the BushBank Program launched the seed sector support grant in 2025. The grants facilitated projects up to 3 years, covering eligible activities including:
 - New or expanded seed production areas and seed banks
 - Training and capacity building for workforce development
 - Expanded or improved seed collection, storage and propagation efforts including research and development projects
- 8 projects, including 2 led by Traditional Owner Corporations, were funded through the grant, which will increase seed availability to support the BushBank program and other large scale restoration projects.



Seed sector grants

In February 2026, the successful announcement of the BushBank Program's seed sector support grants was delivered by the former Minister for Environment Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP. The announcement took place at Euroa Arboretum, one of the many Victorian sites where a seed sector support grant will be delivered.

BushBank's \$900,000 investment into Euroa Arboretum's project will involve expanding native woody seed orchards in the Goulburn Broken Catchment by roughly 32 hectares across five sites, investing in mechanical harvesting equipment and delivering a purpose-built seedbank facility to double current processing and storage capacity and increase processing efficiency.

The project will continue to support Taungurung and Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners connect to Country by assisting through hands-on training and advice in harvesting, processing and storage of seed for their own cultural purposes.



Former Minister for Environment Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP visiting Euroa Arboretum to announce seed sector grants. Taungurung Country. Credit: DEECA

TO LEARN MORE...



[Nature restoration for carbon storage – BushBank program](#)

Private land stream – [Cassinia Environmental website](#)

Victorian Indigenous nurseries – [Interactive map](#)

Nature Kit – [BushBank layer](#)