

# Significant Environmental Benefit NEWSLETTER

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**Nature Foundation SA – SA's largest non-government conservation land manager**

*NFSA is pleased to present this first newsletter promoting our Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) Programme. It is incredibly exciting to be able to expand our work in nature conservation through SEB offsets.*

*Bob Lott – Nature Foundation SA President*

## Delivering SEBs through partnerships

Nature Foundation (NFSA), established in 1981, is South Australia's largest (and Australia's 3rd largest) non-government conservation land manager. Since 2006 NFSA has provided third party delivery of environmental offsets that meet Significant Environment Benefit (SEB) obligations under the Native Vegetation Act 1991.

Nature Foundation SA's SEB Programme has experienced good early results. In 2010 NFSA acquired Witchelina in northern South Australia with the support of SEB funding provided by eight mining and petroleum industry companies. Strong partnerships have been established, with mutual benefits.

## Want to know more about SEBs?

Under the Native Vegetation Act 1991, a person who is clearing native vegetation is required to provide a Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB offset). A third party SEB offset is where a third party NFSA provides the SEB offset on behalf of the clearance proponent. Every time vegetation clearance is permitted, an offset obligation is incurred.

Q: Are you likely to have an SEB liability sometime in the future?

A: Contact Nature Foundation SA to arrange a personal briefing of the benefits of NFSA's third party delivery model.

Q: Are you seeking to value-add benefits from your current or future SEB offset?

A: Nature Foundation SA offers a variety of value propositions for your company and your staff.

## Restoration Ecology Forum at Witchelina Nature Reserve

Nature Foundation SA is hosting a Restoration Ecology Forum at Witchelina Nature Reserve 22nd—24th September. Presentations and field trips will look at how environmental gains are measured, impact assessment methodology for feral goats and a case study of the Thick-billed Grasswren research conducted through Flinders University.

The forum will be a great opportunity for environmental advisers working in the resource sector to learn about Witchelina's ecology, the work of Nature Foundation SA, catch up with NFSA's SEB Delivery Team and network with their peers.

## Legislative Changes

The South Australian Native Vegetation (Miscellaneous establishment) Amendment Act 2013, to amend the Native Vegetation Act 1991, was assented to in December 2013. The subsections related to of the Third Party Significant Environmental Benefit Offsets Scheme will come into operation following development of associated documents — policy, regulations and a public register.

The amendments will introduce a system of SEB credits; it will be possible to have an area of native vegetation that is considered to be of significant value, approved as a credit for later use as a third party offset. The system will mean Nature Foundation SA can earn credits that could be assigned to a clearance liability (subject to specified conditions and the Native Vegetation Council's approval).



## Introducing Caroline Nefiodovas – SEB Business Development Manager

Caroline has 15 years' experience in business development, marketing and project officer roles in the commercial sector. She gained valuable experience working with business and all levels of government on the federal Solar Cities Program, to reduce operating costs through energy efficiency measures. Caroline brings a strong customer service focus to the NFSA SEB programme.

She is driven by the desire to work with industry to meet customer needs and effect positive environmental outcomes. Caroline studied Environmental Science at the University of Adelaide as an undergraduate and holds a diploma in Project Management.

## Hiltaba Nature Reserve: ideal for SEB offsets

*"Hiltaba Nature Reserve is a sustainable, operational, privately-owned, arid land conservation reserve that is recognized internationally for its science based environmental management and collaborative partnerships."*

NFSA Council's Vision for Hiltaba, June 2011

Hiltaba Station, in South Australia's Gawler Ranges, was purchased by Nature Foundation in 2012. The 770km<sup>2</sup> area is now managed for nature conservation and is an ideal SEB offset location due to its distinctive ecological and geological values; it is the only reserve providing habitat for six native plant species endemic to the Gawler Ranges (Toondulya Wattle (*Acacia toondulya*), the Gawler Ranges Grevillea (*Grevillea parviflora*), Gawler Ranges Mintbush (*Prostanthera florifera*), Gawler Ranges Hopbush (*Dodonea intricata*), Gawler Ranges Greenhood (*Pterostylis ovata*) and *Stenanthemum arens*, it helps conserve 18 species of mammals, 102 species of birds, 47 species of reptiles and 382 species of vascular plants, and it provides habitat for one-fifth of the world population of the Gawler Ranges Short-tailed Grasswren.

Effective nature conservation is assured on Hiltaba through an adaptive management framework that averts biodiversity losses from ongoing threats and threatening processes, and enhances biodiversity by restoring and rehabilitating degraded habitat.

NFSA's monitoring programme assesses multiple landscape condition indicators in each of the five vegetation communities present on Hiltaba. The methodologies used aim to demonstrate biodiversity offset through a 'net gain' response to management actions that include reduced total grazing pressure, predation pressure, weed impact, and maintenance of an appropriate fire regime.

NFSA proactively engaged local landholders, Aboriginal communities and private supporters in developing the reserve's management strategy, and ongoing good working relationships have established from this initial close engagement.

Contact Alex Nankivell at NFSA for further information about Hiltaba's management and potential for SEB offsets.



Gawler Ranges Grevillea



Reversing the decline of the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby (*Petrogale xanthopus xanthopus*) on Hiltaba

**The Nature Foundation SEB Programme is supported by:**

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