

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AT SOUTH COAST NRM

Working at the interface of natural capital and agriculture to support a sustainable, resilient and future-ready South Coast region.

South Coast NRM is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation working to support sustainable long-term management of the natural environment. In our Sustainable Agriculture program, we do this by:

- Connecting landholders with best practice information to facilitate and encourage sustainable land management
- Addressing challenges at the interface between agricultural production and natural resource sustainability
- Looking for solutions to these challenges, and supporting projects at a regional scale
- Partnering with catchment and grower groups who have localised knowledge
- Bringing people together – land managers, community and grower groups, researchers & industry
- Leveraging decades of experience in natural resource management to help land managers in our region be ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

OUR PROJECTS



KNOW YOUR SOUTHERN SOILS

Know Your Southern Soils (KYSS) is a three-year project that will improve soil knowledge in the South Coast region, drive adoption of positive soil management practices, and develop an understanding of soil as a foundational component of natural capital.

Key activities:

- Soil-landscape mapping in specific areas where information is lacking
- Establish demonstration sites to showcase best-practice soil management
- Support improved knowledge of soil health by engaging farmers and industry through workshops and field days
- Develop natural capital soil metrics
- Upskill the soil workforce

KYSS is a joint initiative of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and South Coast NRM, funded by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under the National Soil Action Plan.

North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources and grower group ASHEEP & BEEF will play a key role in the project, demonstrating soil management practices and extending information to growers.



FUTURE-READY SOUTH COAST

This three-year project facilitates grower and catchment groups to address challenges present in their local region, through solutions that respond to changing climatic conditions.

Key activities:

- Remediating saline-affected land in the Ravensthorpe region (examples of work include revegetation with salt-tolerant species, and gravelling trials on salt scalds)
- Demonstrating how perennial pastures and different pasture mixes could improve seasonal resilience near Jerramungup
- Restoring and protecting natural assets (examples include fencing remnant vegetation to protect it from livestock, and revegetating riparian corridors)
- Enhancing farm dams for improved water quality and persistence.

At the regional scale, the project also supports growers to capitalize on the emerging opportunities presented by carbon and biodiversity markets. Future-Ready South Coast is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.



CAPITALISING ON CARBON

Understanding flows of carbon and other greenhouse gases in a farm business is becoming increasingly important, with markets, financiers and supply chains beginning to ask farmers, “what’s your emissions intensity?”

South Coast NRM is working closely with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and the University of Tasmania to develop a training package for livestock producers, to improve their readiness to engage with carbon accounting, carbon markets and emerging sustainability frameworks.

Funded by MLA, the training package is the key extension outcome arising from the Carbon Storage Partnership, a national research and extension partnership that South Coast NRM has been part of since 2019. The work has also been supported by Australian Wool Innovation’s BENEFITS program.

UNDERSTANDING AND MEASURING NATURAL CAPITAL AND CARBON

For decades, the Landcare movement, catchment groups and many dedicated land managers have supported the careful stewardship of the natural resources that underpin our farms, our communities and our livelihoods. Whether it’s restoring riparian zones, protecting native plants and animals, improving water quality or looking after soil, this work has bolstered the ecosystem services that sustain us.

South Coast NRM’s natural capital approach builds on this rich history, offering a framework that explicitly links nature, the economy, and people. The Sustainable Agriculture program links the conceptual with the tangible, exploring what a natural capital approach – as well as carbon and biodiversity markets – might mean for farmers in the years to come.

OUR TEAM

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