



Yarra Ranges Biodiversity Offsets Program (BOP)





Avoid

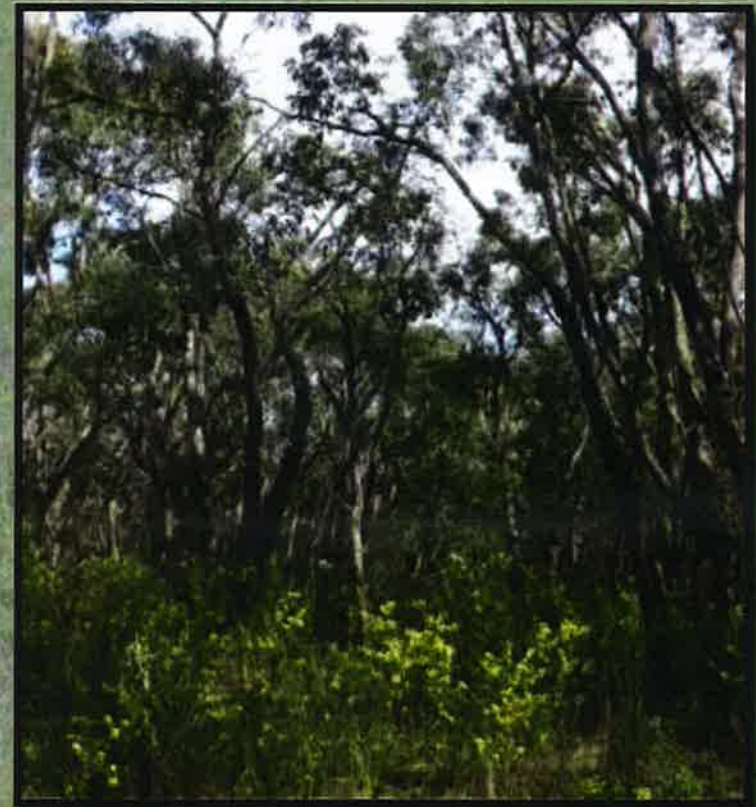
Minimise

Offset

What is a biodiversity offset?

Compensation for the loss of native vegetation

- Revegetation
- Remnant vegetation
- Onsite vs. Offsite offsets
- Ongoing management
- Protection of offsets
- Limitations



Offset Issues

Permit Holders

- Complexity, timeframes and \$\$\$
- Lack of local offset options

Council

- Monitoring and compliance
- Internal offset requirements

Environment

- Loss in local ecological values
- Questionable ecological outcomes

Offsets at other end of state!



Biodiversity Offsets Program

Goal 1:

- Local offset options

Goal 2:

- Strategic and proactive offsets

Goal 3:

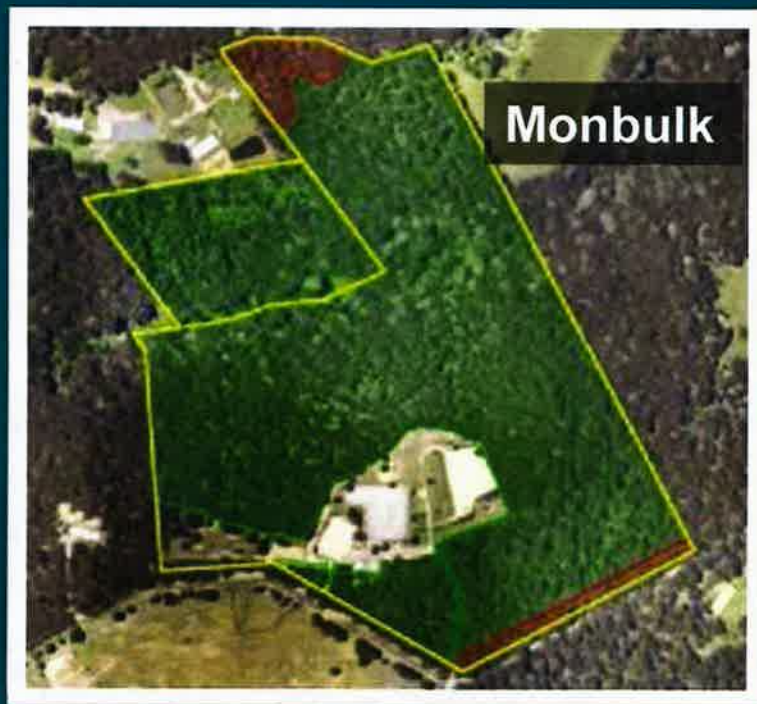
- Quality ecological outcomes

Goal 4:

- Efficient offsetting service

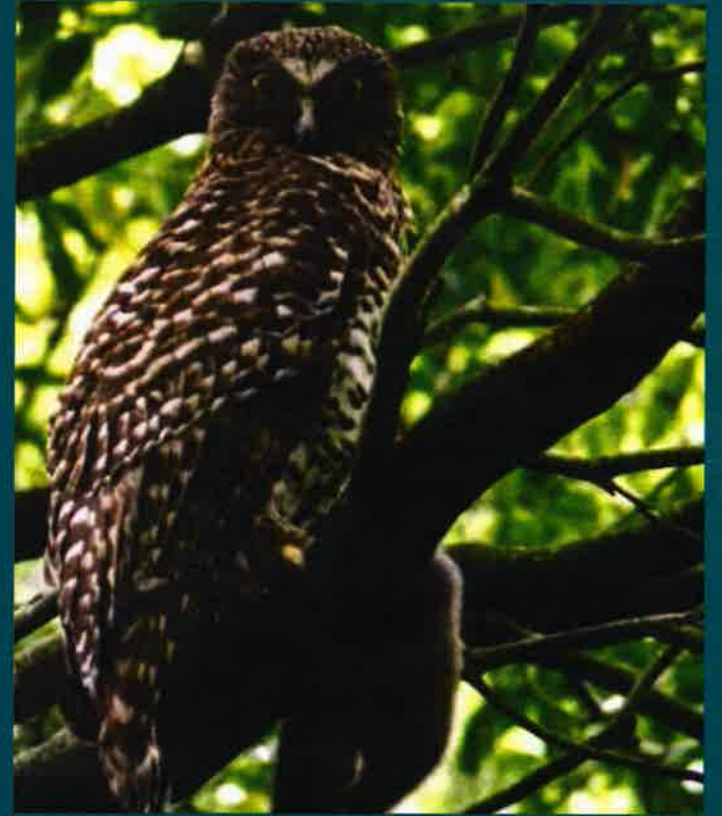
How it works

- Offsets located on Council land
- Offsets sites are protected in perpetuity
- Offsets credits are 'banked'
- Permit holders can purchase offsets
- Council owns and manages the offset sites



The Healesville Offset Site (The Old Tip)







Costing Model

- The costing model is based on cost recovery and includes:
 - Revegetation costs
 - Pest plant and animal control
 - Fencing and site management
 - Ecological consultant and legal fees
 - Salary for the Biodiversity Offsets Officer
- Costs for different sites varies significantly

\$60,000 per Habitat Hectare



\$240,000 per Habitat Hectare




Credit prices

- Credit prices for 2012-2013 (excl GST) are:
 - \$99,000 per Habitat Hectare
 - \$2,300 per Very Large Old Tree
 - \$2,000 per Large Old Tree
 - \$39 per recruit
- There are no additional fees
- New system has just commenced (Biodiversity Equivalence Units)

Trades to date

The Program became operational in September 2012:

- 27 trades completed (plus 13 active)
- \$350,000+ in offset credits
- Trades vary from (\$1,500 to \$45,000)
- Various customers
- Focus on customer service



Case study:
Footpath development
Monbulk

Summary

- Offsets provide financial incentive to avoid and minimise impacts
- Strategic and proactive offsets can achieve quality ecological outcomes
- Local governments can play a key role in providing offsets



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