

Now it pays you



**to protect
native vegetation
on your land.**

Foreword

The South Australian Department for the Environment has, over a number of years, put a great deal of time and effort into developing a realistic and acceptable approach to the retention of native vegetation on our farming lands. When the Liberal Government took office in South Australia in September 1979 it brought with it a policy which complemented this work and which stated:

"Immediate attention will be given to providing incentives to landholders to encourage them to retain appropriate areas of both native vegetation and land for productive agricultural use. We will review State and Local Government rates and taxes affecting such areas."

This booklet provides tangible evidence that this promise has been kept.

In February 1980 Cabinet approved the principle of Government provision of incentives for the retention of native vegetation on private land. It approved also the removal of anomalies relating to the clearance of native vegetation which existed under old Acts. Drafting of an appropriate amendment to the South Australian Heritage Act then began, and in August 1980 the Bill was introduced into Parliament. Its provisions will enable landholders to retain areas of valuable native scrub without undue financial commitment and will provide for the long term protection and management of such areas.



DAVID C. WOTTON

I commend this scheme and the advantages, both financial and other, it offers to all rural landholders. South Australia is the first Australian State to offer such a comprehensive and integrated programme of assistance, and we believe that some features of the scheme are unique on a World-wide basis. South Australia has taken an initiative which will, with good will and co-operation from our landholders, result in the long term protection and management of much of the remaining native vegetation. In a dry State with relatively little native forest and woodland such an initiative will surely be applauded by future generations.

The South Australian Government offers you the chance to take part in this history-making plan, which will contribute in a most worthwhile way to ensuring that our State is a good place in which to live.

David C. Wotton
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND
PLANNING

The new way it pays you to protect Native Vegetation.



Reduced Rates

The South Australian Government now provides practical incentives in relation to Local Government rates.

Total relief of rate payment will be granted to those areas set aside as native vegetation under the terms of this Scheme.

Fencing Subsidies

These incentives also involve the provision of subsidies for fencing native vegetation on privately owned land, to offset the costs of retaining the vegetation.

Six other ways it pays you to protect Native Vegetation.

1 Shade and Shelter

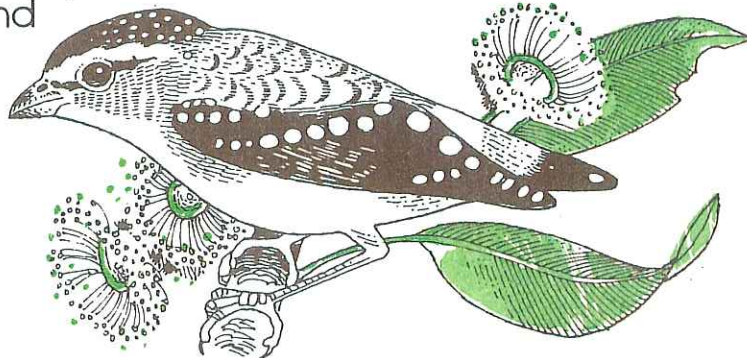
It may seem obvious, but the importance of shade and shelter for stock provided by natural vegetation, is one of the basics of animal husbandry that is still frequently overlooked.

2 Erosion Control

Belts and pockets of native vegetation are the best natural soil stabiliser and act as a barrier against both wind and water erosion.

3 It's 'home' for Insect Eating Birds and Animals

Native fauna, particularly birds, is all the safest means of helping control the wide variety of potentially damaging insects on your property. Take away all the native vegetation, and you take away the habitat essential for the survival of native birds and animals.



4 Drought Reserve

May you never have to use it, but should the time come when the rains don't, the native vegetation on your land will delay the day when you may have to sell off or start hand feeding stock.

5 Timber and Fuel

Using selective cutting, your reserves of native vegetation provide you with a renewable source of fence posts and fuel.

6 Soil Salinity Control

There was a time when increasing soil salinity was something you read about, a problem that someone else had, but now in a number of areas it's increasing. Mature native vegetation, left in its natural state, can be a ready made control factor.

Other reasons why it's important that you help save Native Vegetation.

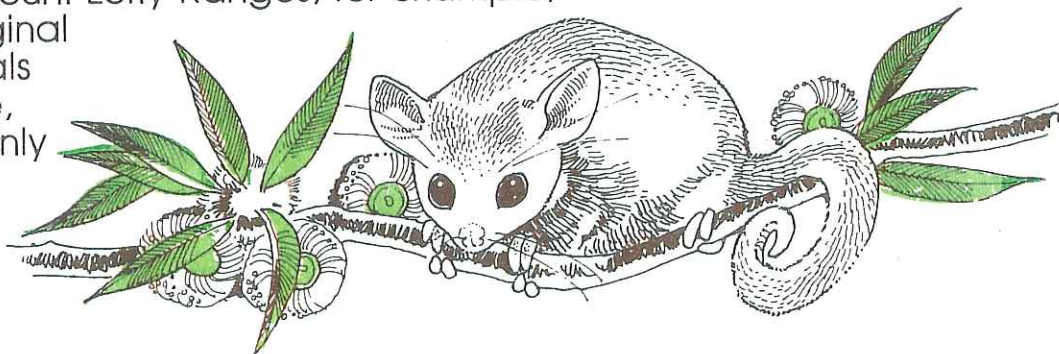


Help Save a Plant Species

Considering that about 40% of the plants native to South Australia are classified as rare or endangered — you have some idea of the importance of retaining areas of native vegetation in agricultural areas.

The last Refuge

The loss of their natural habitat is the main reason for the extinction of many animals and birds. In the Mount Lofty Ranges, for example, almost half the original species of mammals are now either rare, or extinct, due mainly to the loss of the native vegetation.



Aid Agricultural Research

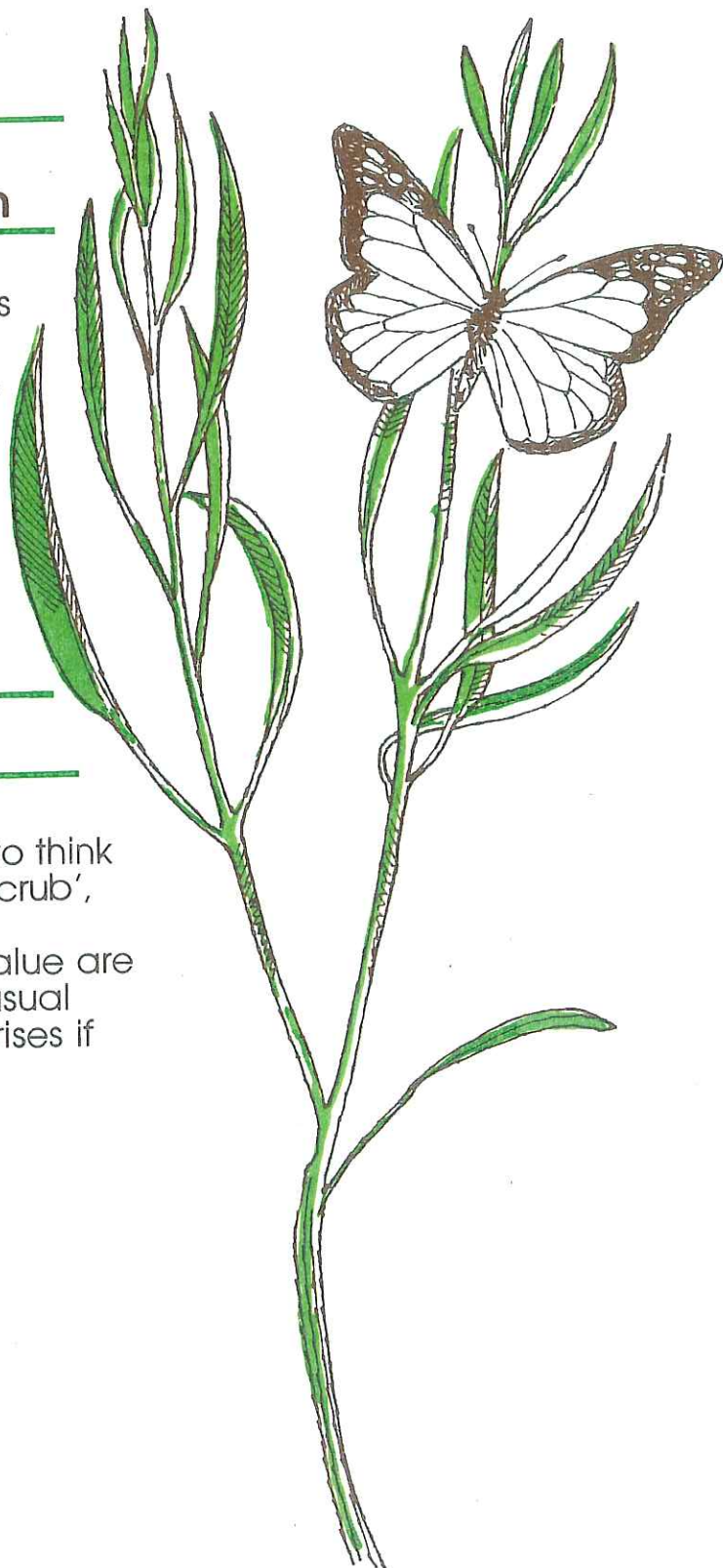
Native vegetation areas provide a natural laboratory for soil and agricultural research purposes and specifically a basis for determining the increasing or decreasing productivity of adjacent agricultural areas.

Adjunct to National Parks System

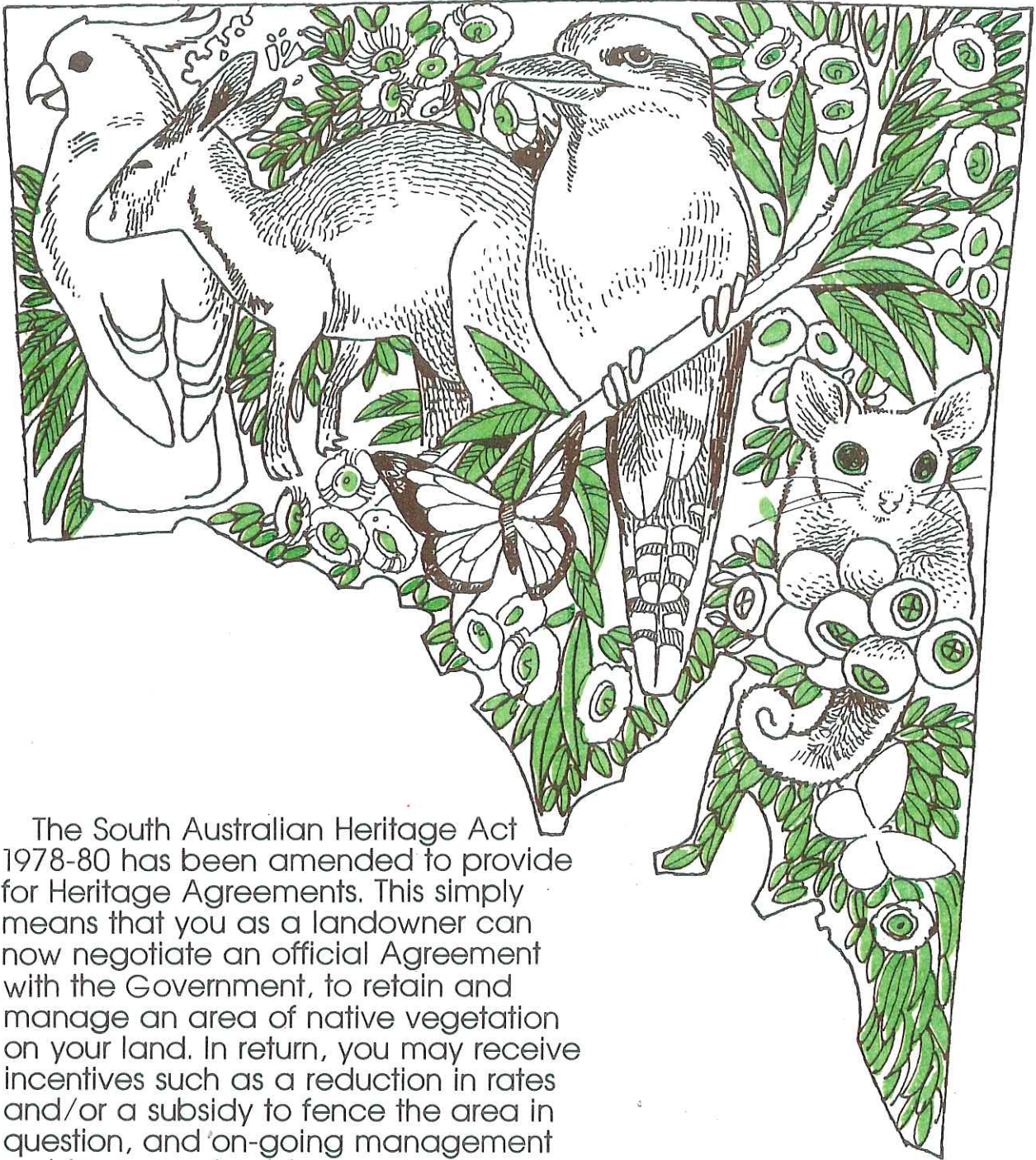
The growth of the National Parks System is playing its part in the conservation of native vegetation. However, any such Public System has its limitations. That is why complementary measures by private land owners are so important to our heritage.

It Looks Good

Despite the general tendency to think about our native vegetation as 'scrub', and all that the word implies, its uniqueness, variety and scenic value are visually rewarding to even the casual observer. It's a storehouse of surprises if you take a little more time.



What is new about the programme to protect Native Vegetation?



The South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80 has been amended to provide for Heritage Agreements. This simply means that you as a landowner can now negotiate an official Agreement with the Government, to retain and manage an area of native vegetation on your land. In return, you may receive incentives such as a reduction in rates and/or a subsidy to fence the area in question, and on-going management assistance and advice.

Who can take advantage of the Heritage Agreement Scheme?

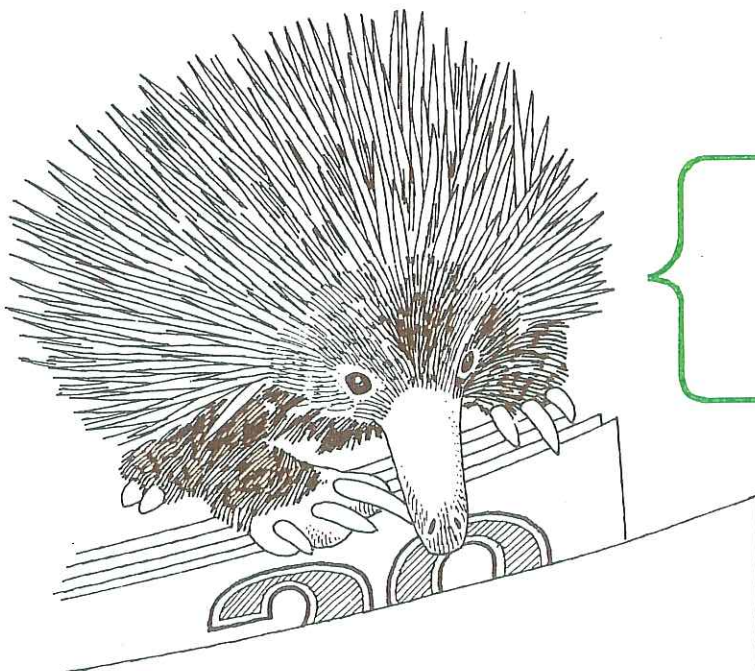
It could be you!

Take a fresh look at your property to see if part of it falls within these guidelines.

- an area of special ecological value which might contain rare plants, rare birds or animal communities, or a wide range of different plant species.
- a last refuge for birds or animals, or a connecting 'corridor' of native plants providing natural cover

between parks and other heavily vegetated areas.

- areas of particular beauty or visual attraction.
- areas which include items of European or Aboriginal cultural significance.



We all
need a little
corner
to survive in.

How does the Heritage Agreement Scheme work?

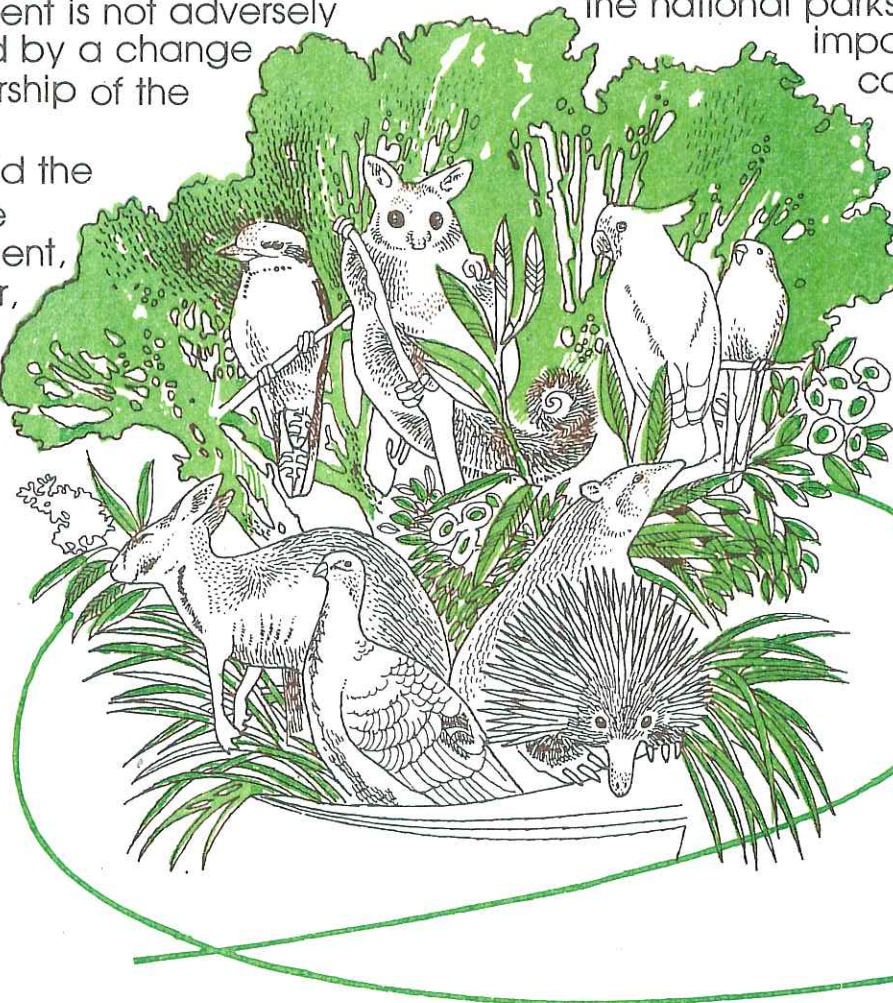
As a landowner you sign an Agreement with an authority approved by the state government, on the management measures necessary to retain, protect or enhance the value of the native vegetation involved. The Agreement does not affect land ownership, this remains with the property owner.

The Agreement may be expressed to run for a fixed term or to last in perpetuity, and as such will bind future landowners. This ensures that the intention of the Agreement is not adversely affected by a change in ownership of the land.

Should the Heritage Agreement, however, be in conflict with the

terms of a mortgage or other interest registered **before** the Agreement is made, then the prior interest will not be bound by the terms of the Heritage Agreement. Conflict is not anticipated, for the philosophy of a Heritage Agreement to preserve, conserve and maintain an area of land, should be acceptable to a mortgagee.

The scheme is entirely voluntary and relies for its success on the co-operation of South Australian landowners. It is not a substitute for the national parks system and important areas will continue to be acquired for the State public parks.



Will the Heritage Agreement add to the value of a property?

It should. The incentives it provides and the advantages of native vegetation protected by a Heritage Agreement, are as tangible for the potential purchaser, as they are for the current owner.

It is interesting to note in this context that blocks of native

vegetation on the Fleurieu Peninsula have recently attracted higher sale prices than adjacent cleared and developed blocks. It is expected that this trend will continue and extend to other regions.



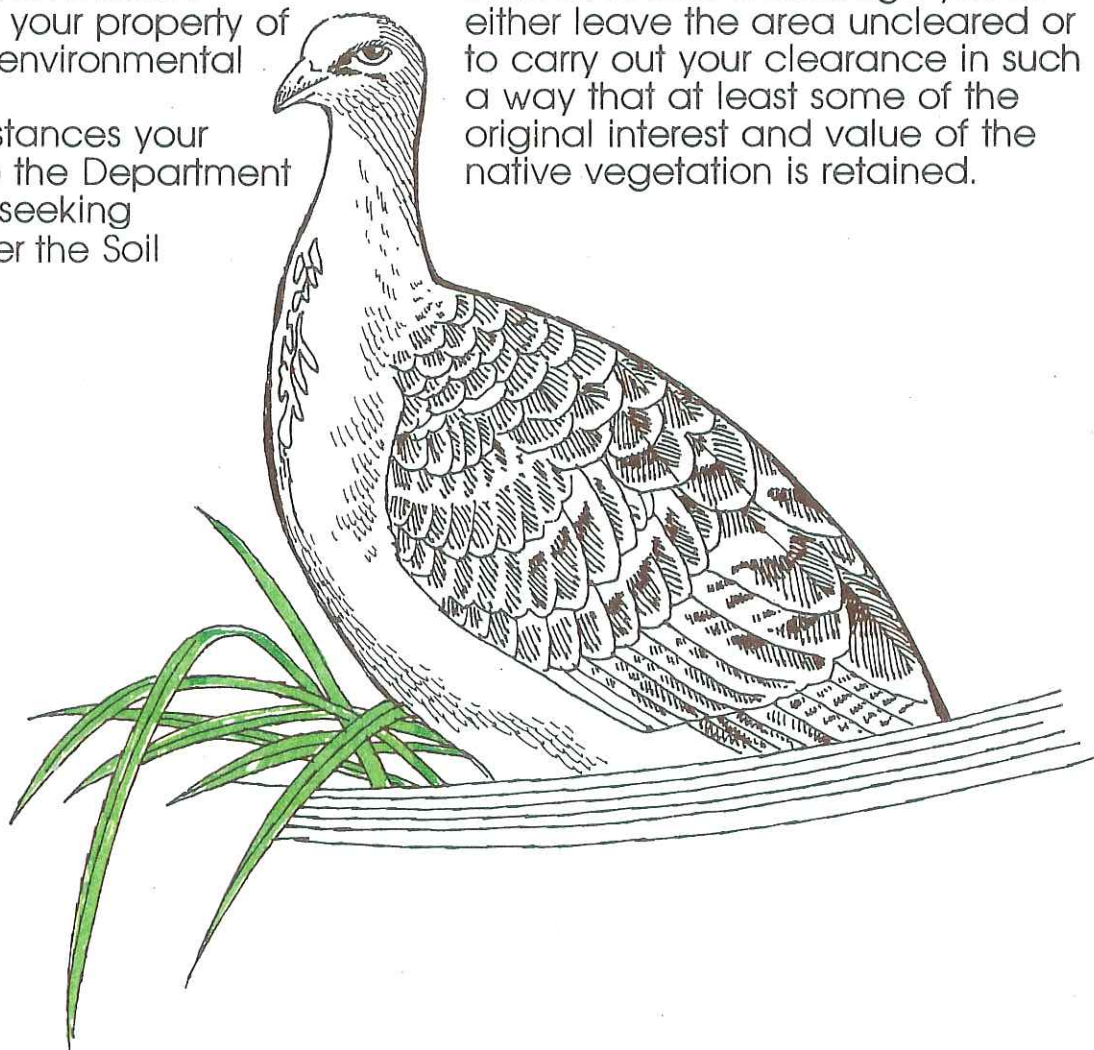
When and where can you arrange to participate in the Heritage Agreement Scheme?

- If you have an area of native vegetation on your land, that you consider may warrant consideration under the scheme, simply contact the Department of Environment and Planning and they will make an assessment for you.

- In some cases the Department may contact you direct if they feel that you may have native vegetation on your property of considerable environmental significance.

- In other instances your application to the Department of Agriculture seeking approval under the Soil

Conservation Act to clear native vegetation will be referred to officers of the Department of Environment and Planning who may discuss with you the benefits of entering into a Heritage Agreement. In this case, with your approval, the Department will assess your property and may offer incentives that encourage you to either leave the area uncleared or to carry out your clearance in such a way that at least some of the original interest and value of the native vegetation is retained.



Apply

For assistance to retain native vegetation apply to:

The Director General,
Department of Environment and Planning
G.P.O. Box 667,
ADELAIDE, S.A. 5001.
Telephone (08) 212 5555

Complete and Mail this Form (It does not place you under any obligation).

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO RETAIN NATIVE VEGETATION

APPLICANTS NAME IN FULL

SURNAME (Mr./MRS./MISS/MS)
CHRISTIAN NAME
POSTAL ADDRESSPOST CODE
TELEPHONE No.BEST CONTACT TIME

DETAILS OF AREA FOR WHICH ASSISTANCE IS SOUGHT.

(Only the area in question, not the entire holding. Include a sketch or plan if possible)

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE:VOLUMEFOLIO
LEASE:VOLUMEFOLIO
SECTION:
PT. SECTION:
HUNDRED:APPROXIMATE AREA:

NAMES OF OTHER PERSONS OR PARTIES WITH REGISTERED INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE: TICK WHERE APPLICABLE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATE RELIEF ☐ FENCING SUBSIDY ☐

MANAGEMENT AIDS ☐ OTHER ☐

IF "OTHER" PLEASE STATE

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY MADE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE? YES ☐ NO ☐

I/We hereby apply for assistance to retain native vegetation on the property described above.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATUREDATE