



**GRANITE TO  
GOULBURN**

Landscape action plan

We acknowledge the Taungurung people as the Traditional Owners of the Granite to Goulburn landscape. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture and pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and we acknowledge emerging leaders.

We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards self-determination, equity of outcomes, and an equal voice for Australia's First People.

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# GRANITE TO GOULBURN



Granite to Goulburn (G2G) is a consortium of four networks that operate within the Goulburn Broken Catchment: Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare Network (HCCC), Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network, Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network, and Euroa Arboretum Inc, which includes the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seed Bank

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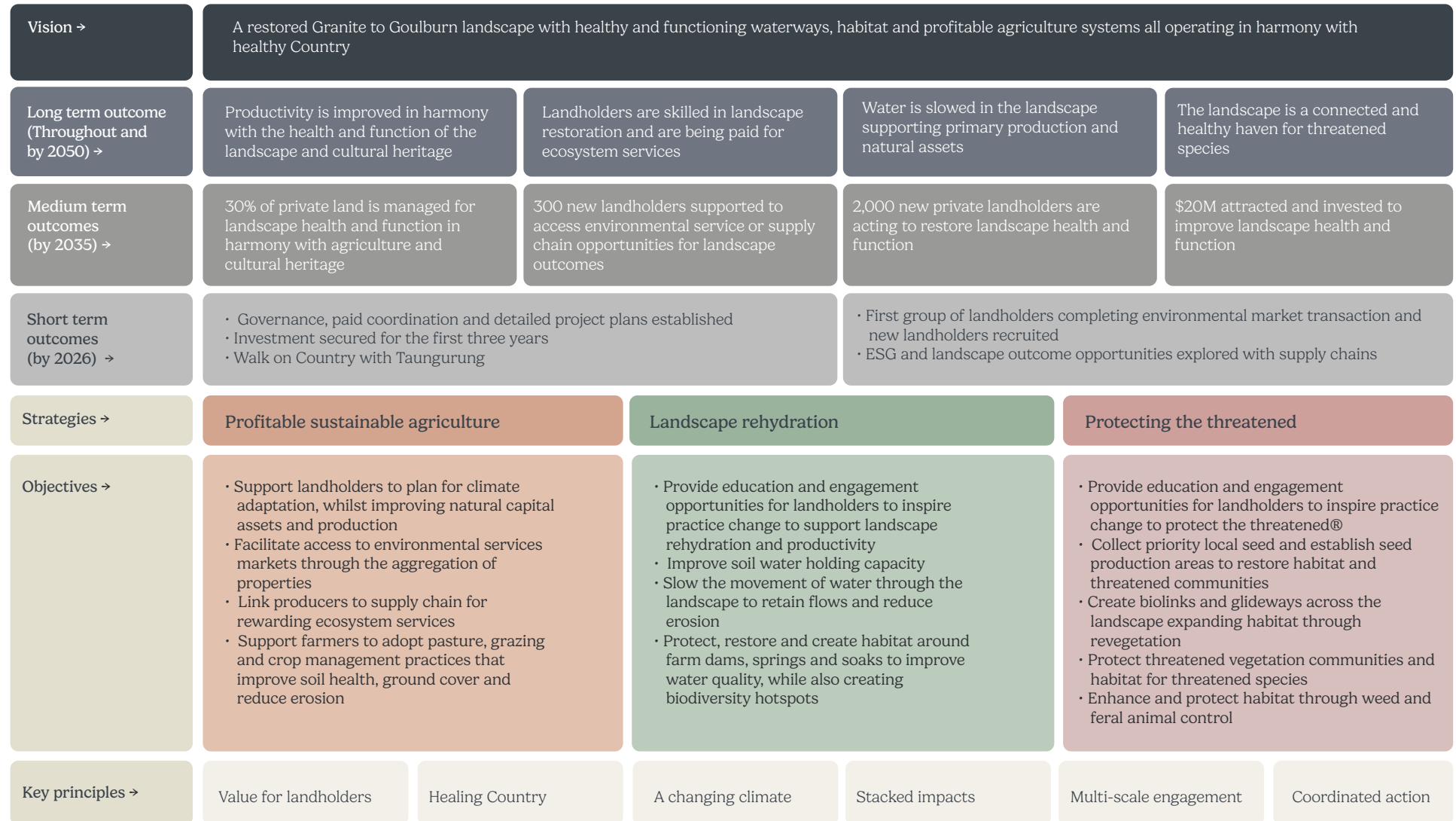
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# Granite to Goulbourn Landscape Action Plan

This Landscape Action Plan (the Plan) was developed by the newly formed Granite to Goulbourn Network (G2G) to distil a shared vision for this landscape in central Victoria. It is summarised here on one page.

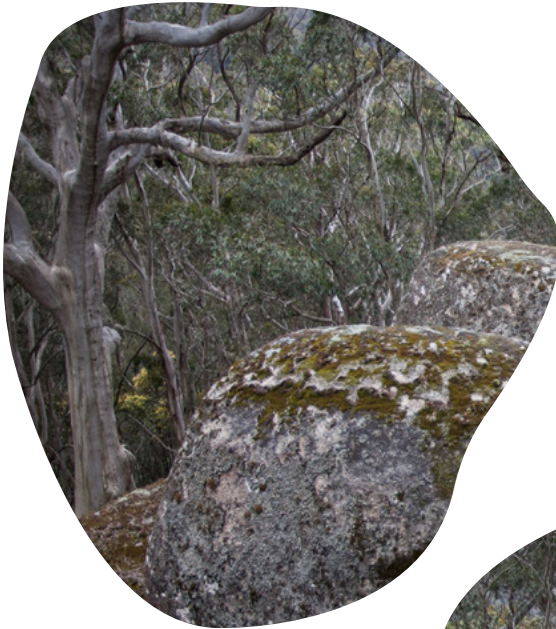


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## Executive Summary

The Landscape Action Plan has been developed by the Granite to Goulburn (G2G) network with contributions from its partners, Landcare Victoria Inc., ANU's Sustainable Farms, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Taungurung Land and Water Council, and from key stakeholders, including local landholders, government agencies, and environmental groups, to ensure a broad representation of interests.

This Plan presents a shared vision for the Granite to Goulburn (G2G) landscape, that builds upon the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27, a blueprint for the integrated management of natural resources in the Catchment, aimed at improving its health and resilience. The Plan has been devised to clarify shared goals; to propose strategic interventions; to provide a framework for potential investors to understand and support our landscape restoration approach.



The six principles guiding the Plan are: value for landholders; healing Country; a changing climate; stacked impacts; multi-scale engagement and coordinated action. Main threats to the G2G landscape are identified, and three priority strategies are highlighted: profitable sustainable agriculture, rehydrating the landscape and protecting threatened species; for each one of them specific goals and actions are outlined. Based on these strategies, seven projects and four case studies are presented, drawing upon a selection of G2G's landholders willing to implement this Plan.

The underpinning concept is that investing in landscape restoration is a win-win strategy that contributes to sustainable supply, revives rural economies and produces tangible benefits for nature and climate, as well as enhancing companies' triple bottom line. Existing and emerging environmental market opportunities are identified, and pathways to support access to these markets, including the facilitation of aggregation models, is provided for landholders.

This Plan has been developed as part of Landcare Victoria's New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project, with generous support by the Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust.

# 1. About this plan

## 1.1 — Background

This Landscape Action Plan (the Plan) was developed by the newly formed Granite to Goulburn Network (G2G) to distil a shared vision for this landscape in central Victoria. This Plan was compiled through Landcare Victoria's New Futures for Victorian Landcare Project (New Futures), with generous support from the Ian Potter Foundation and the Natural Resources Conservation Trust. The Granite to Goulburn network was selected as one of two pilot areas for the New Futures program in Victoria and successfully secured funding through their application in 2023. The program offered support from partners Regen Farmers Mutual, ANU Sustainable Farms Initiative and Landscape Finance Lab during its development and continues to assist with future initiatives.

The Plan is based on qualitative information collected from multiple face to face meetings and recurring online group sessions with core partners, local stakeholders and landholders (Pilot 10)<sup>1</sup>. This information has been further processed by the G2G working group, through the Landscape Impact Program, facilitated by Regen Farmers Mutual. Feedback from project partners and stakeholders has been sought for and incorporated in the draft Plan, that has been created with assistance from RMCG.

## 1.2 — Why invest at Landscape Scale?<sup>2</sup>

This Plan is based on the idea that investing in landscape restoration is a win-win strategy that contributes to sustainable supply, whilst reviving rural economies and producing tangible benefits for nature and climate, as well as enhancing companies' triple bottom line<sup>3</sup>. In our view, investing at landscape scale offers significant benefits over discrete interventions for the following reasons:

Maximise impact	Stimulate broader adoption	Maximise value for landholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinated interventions produce greater impact</li><li>• Focus on linkage of corridors and riparian zones</li><li>• Enables prioritisation of resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pilot sites are used to pave the way for others</li><li>• Increase skills and expertise through field days</li><li>• Community engagement through a common vision</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aggregation reduces project/transaction costs</li><li>• Creates insetting opportunities (as opposed to offsetting) through community co-branding.</li><li>• More compelling value for impact investors</li></ul>

1. Ten landholders have been selected at the beginning of the project, and are referred to as "Pilot 10".

2. The 4 Returns Framework For Landscape Restoration, Dudley Et Al. July 2023

3. A guide to investing in landscape restoration to sustain agrifood supply chains. IUCN and The Food and Land Use Coalition, 2023



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### 1.3 — Using this Plan

This is a 25-year plan, designed with the following ambitions:

- Provide a vision for the landscape shared by multiple stakeholders and landscape partners.
- For the G2G Network to identify its goals and objectives, to guide future decisions.
- To clarify the proposed interventions and our strategy to deliver them
- To stimulate projects and uptake that move us closer towards our vision.
- For investors to understand our approach to landscape restoration.

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## 2. Our landscape

### 2.1 — About us

The G2G is a consortium of four networks that operate within the Goulburn Broken Catchment:

- Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network (covers 136,000 ha)
- Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network (272,000 ha)
- Euroa Arboretum Inc, which includes the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seed Bank (27 ha)
- Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare Network (HCCC), leading organisation (87,000)

The existence of these networks, the long-term collaborations and the prospect of joining forces and resources to work together, are the main motivation behind the boundaries of the G2G landscape. Within these boundaries, ten pilot landholders have been selected to be part of this project (Pilot 10).

### 2.2 — Landscape description

The G2G landscape is an easily definable area with an ideal size for a landscape scale project (408,000 ha) that encompasses the Strathbogie Ranges and the Longwood Plains (Figure 1 and 2), on the traditional lands of the Taungurung people in central Victoria. The G2G landscape is mostly under the administrative boundaries of Strathbogie Shire but includes areas under Murrindindi and Mitchell Shire. Although only 1.5 hours from Melbourne, the area is considered remote, wild and sparsely populated. The main





townships are Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town, and smaller ones are Graytown, Longwood, Ruffy and Strathbogie. Since European settlement, land-use change has included clearing for farming, gold rushes, the post-1930s farm mechanisation and the wool boom of the 1950s. Land use is now a mixture of state forests, small reserves, lifestyle properties and agriculture with wool, grain, cattle, horse studs, vineyards and more recently fruit production. Logging has recently ended in the Strathbogie Forest. The G2G landscape includes 24% public land and 76% private land; 70% cleared land and 6% forestry plantations. Farmers are the lifeblood of the economy and community. The landscape is part of an expansive area along the Goulburn River, where the Taungurung clan, called Yawang-yilam-bulok or ‘Stone Dwelling people’, lived and managed Country for many thousands of

years and have continued custodianship today.<sup>4</sup> Known as ‘Stone Country’ (Yawang Biik) to its Traditional Owners, this landscape preserves countless examples of cultural heritage and offers an opportunity for Taungurung to partner and provide leadership in healing and caring for Country.

The Strathbogie Ranges, a predominantly rural area, stands out with its two distinct granite plateaus. The landscape’s pure fractured rock groundwater aquifers, while low yielding, provide essential water during droughts. Key waterways like Hughes Creek and Seven Creeks are vital habitats for endangered species, including trout cod, the endangered Macquarie perch and Murray cod. The granite creeks, wetlands and spring soak bogs in this region function as a natural sponge, gradually releasing high-quality water to the surrounding foothills and the Goulburn River system.

Agricultural land-use is highly valued in this area, as is the remaining native vegetation. The ongoing pressures of balancing the

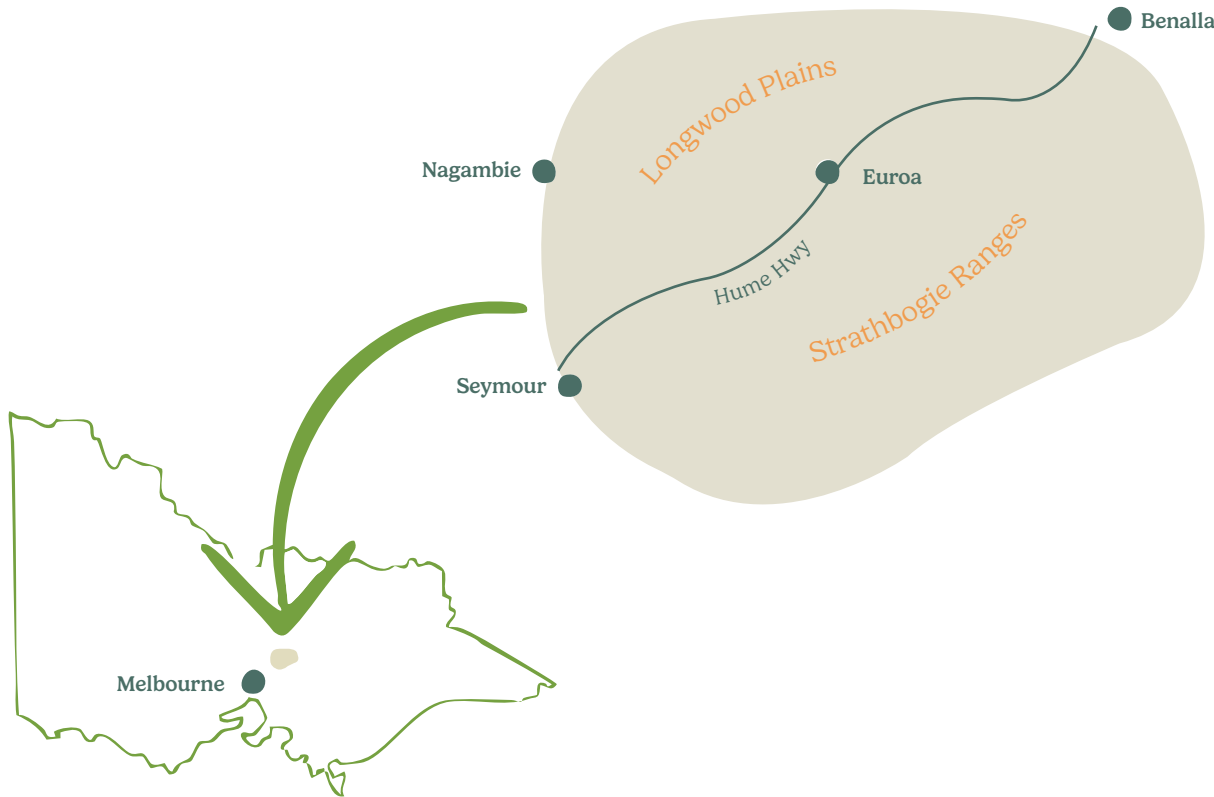


Figure 1: Location of the G2G Landscape within Victoria.  
4. Taungurung Land and Waters website 29/08/24

agricultural production with environmental outcomes has been leading to innovations in grazing management, soil health strategies, stubble retention in cropping and cover cropping. The most significant changes in land-use are seen in the south-western part of this area, around Nagambie and across to the Strathbogie Ranges, where broad acre mixed farming properties are making way for more intensive enterprises, such as thoroughbred horse studs, which presents significant challenges and opportunities for catchment management. The aim is to integrate productivity with the ecological function of the land and waterways in the area.

The Longwood Plains are a productive area nestled at the base of the Strathbogie Ranges and extending to the Goulburn River. Agricultural production in the plains has included cattle, sheep, cropping, viticulture and, more recently, equine. The Box Gum Grassy Woodlands, a nationally endangered ecological community, characterises this landscape, however over 95% of these woodlands have been cleared or severely degraded since European settlement.

Box Gum Grassy Woodlands, an ecological community that once extended across much of the sheep-wheat belt of south-eastern Australia, are home to a remarkable diversity of native plants and animals, including numerous threatened species. However, it is also one of the most poorly conserved and threatened ecosystems in Australia. With only 5% of woodland remaining, and the majority occurring as small remnants on private land, landholders have an important role to play in its conservation.

Investment in woodland restoration and revegetation will also play a key role in reaching critical thresholds for landscape resilience to adapt to climatic changes.

Significant fauna species for the G2G landscape include vulnerable reptiles such as



The productive Longwood Plains (Source: Richard & Jacqueline Palmer, Pilot 10)

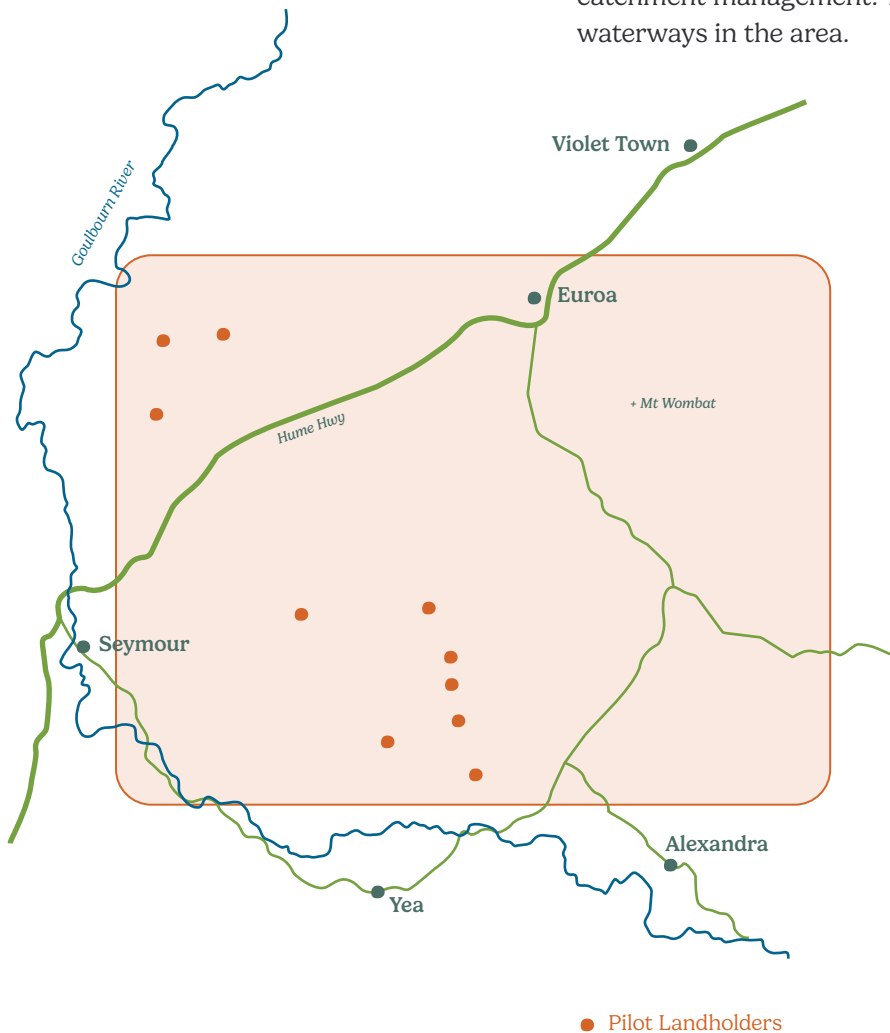


Figure 2: Indicative boundaries of G2G landscape and location of Pilot 10 landholders



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The Granite to Goulburn landscape  
(Source: Janet Hagen)

the Striped legless lizard and Bearded dragon, and the endangered Southern greater glider, with the Strathbogie Ranges being home to the largest population in SE Australia. Endangered bird species include the Powerful owl, Gang gang cockatoo, Swift parrot and Regent honeyeater. Key threatened flora species include the Euroa guinea flower, many orchids and other herbaceous species associated with grasslands.

The G2G's progressive community, together with the Taungurung, and a group of supportive partners are passionate about reconnecting and restoring habitat and water resources, protecting cultural heritage and healing soils to provide a sanctuary for native plants and animals in harmony with productive agriculture. With a forward-looking and coordinated community, focussed on inspiring change management practices, this landscape is primed for further protection and restoration. The Granite to Goulburn community is on a mission to heal the landscape.

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### 2.3 — Our community

In the G2G landscape there are many community groups and not for profit organisations that are active on various fronts, and representatives of many of these groups have been actively involved in the community sessions organised for this project. This includes environment and agriculture groups, welfare, community development, tourism, and business development.



#### → Traditional Owners

The Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) is a Registered Aboriginal Party that represents the interests of the Taungurung people, who have been caring for Country in this landscape for many millennia. TLaWC is the corporate representative of the Taungurung people and serves to uphold their interests with respect to culture and Country, with multiple aims, such as developing projects for the economic, social and cultural well-being of Taungurung people; providing opportunities to engage in cultural events; delivering services for culturally informed natural resource management; liaising with governmental bodies, private landowners, developers, and other stakeholders to assist with best land and water management practices, ensuring that environmental and biocultural values are balanced, resilient and strengthened.

#### → Local businesses

The G2G landscape offers the perfect location for successful enterprises that benefit from the natural resources of this area, either directly or indirectly. This is worth mentioning, because G2G cannot achieve the scale needed to increase financing for nature without the private sector and, therefore, we need to find a common language between the profit-driven motives of the private sector and landcarers.

The area around Nagambie is famous for its wineries, such as Mitchelton and Chateau Tahbilk, as well as horse studs including Yulong Investments, Gilgai Farm and Aldebaran Park.

Another important local industry is poultry breeding, with enterprises running farm operations across multiple poultry sheds outside Nagambie, including Turosi Food Solutions Group and Baiada Poultry Pty Limited.

Following the principles of circular economy, another interesting local business that draws on natural resources is Wellmix Mushroom Compost and Poultry Manure, based in Nagambie.



Granite to Goulburn landscape planning workshop (Source: Brooke Hermans, RMCG)

## 2.4 — Our Partners


The G2G Network has worked with a multi-stakeholder partnership to reach consensus on this Plan. Our partners include the organisations that had an active role in planning, delivering, monitoring and supporting the project:

- Local landholders: Ten Pilot farmers (livestock producers, croppers, lifestyle and weekenders), and other farmers who would like to be part of this project. These landholders support G2G’s vision and offer their properties for landscape restoration projects.
- Stakeholders: under this category we have grouped organizations and people that have an interest in this landscape and in this project’s outcome.

Stakeholder	Interest
Local Landcare groups	A collaboration amongst all the groups active in this landscape would allow us to achieve more results on a landscape scale.
Biolinks Alliance	Interested in actively partnering with local community and Landcare groups on enhancing connectivity for wildlife, functional rewilding across the landscape and, ultimately, in establishing a partnership with the G2G for ongoing collaboration.
BEAM - Mitchell Environment Group	An independent, membership-based and volunteer-driven environment group based in the Mitchell Shire. Their vision is a thriving community that is locally active for a healthy environment. BEAM’s members are engaged in supporting sustainable outcomes in government projects, advocating for the local region and supporting green initiatives.
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strathbogie Shire’s Climate Change Action Officer has participated in the Co-design session, demonstrating enthusiasm for this project.</li> <li>• Murrindindi Shire has shown interest in following our next steps; the Coordinator of Environmental Programs receives regular updates.</li> <li>• Mitchell Shire has not engaged with G2G yet, but we’re confident that it will do so in the future.</li> </ul>

## 2.5 — Landscape Threats

The G2G landscape is rich in natural, productive, and social assets, but several issues threaten its health and function. These include:

	<p>Soil damage</p>	<p>Soil erosion, soil acidity, overgrazing, low levels of organic matter and extensive use of agricultural chemicals is negatively affecting the soil health and subsequently affecting fungi, microbes, vegetation and waterway health and farm productivity. More flash flooding during sudden storm events is accelerating run-off and stream bank erosion.</p>
	<p>Waterway and wetland changes</p>	<p>Wetlands, once common in the landscape, have been drained to allow for farming. It is estimated that just 18% of the original Strathbogie Ranges wetlands-riparian habitat remains. Erosion across the landscape is causing creeks and waterways to get clogged by sand slugs.</p>
	<p>Farm margins and new complexity</p>	<p>Increasing input costs, decreasing soil fertility, and brittleness of the landscape are putting pressure on farm margins. Complex new supply chain demands around low carbon production, combined with a lack of knowledge around environmental service markets is a challenge for the agricultural landholders.</p>
	<p>Habitat loss and fragmentation</p>	<p>67% of the landscape is cleared, leaving disconnected remnants of endangered habitats such as the Box Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands. Weeds and feral animals cause further damage to native vegetation communities, while large paddock trees are dying, removing shade for livestock and stepping stones for birds.</p>
	<p>Climate change</p>	<p>On average it is getting warmer, and rainfall is declining. There is less autumn and spring rainfall and more summer storms and winter cold snaps, shortening the pasture growing period. It is predicted that average temperatures across the area will continue to increase in all seasons and there will be more hot days and warm spells, whilst frost and rainfall will decrease.<sup>5</sup> These changes threaten the viability of farming, landscape function and community resilience.</p>
	<p>Cultural heritage, biocultural values and connection</p>	<p>During European settlement Traditional Owners were removed from the land. Connection and access to Country to heal and share traditional knowledge has been limited. Development of a Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria, together with new policy that supports a cultural landscape approach to planning and management has strengthened relationships and enabled new partnerships for healing and caring for Country at Place and landscape.</p>
	<p>Population increases</p>	<p>Population across the area is rapidly increasing, due to the proximity to Melbourne attracting tree changers and commuting residents. Over the next 20 years, Mitchell Shire Council is predicted to have the highest population growth per annum in the State.<sup>6</sup> Increasing population results in changed land use and the loss of productive and natural assets.</p>



5. Victorian State Government, Climate Ready Victoria – Hume.

6. Victorian State Government, Victoria in Future 2023.

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## 3 — Landscape Action Plan

### 3.1 — Landscape Vision

A restored Granite to Goulburn landscape with healthy and functioning waterways, habitat and profitable agriculture systems all operating in harmony with healthy Country.

This vision stems from a co-design process and the input provided by stakeholders of the G2G landscape (including the Pilot 10 landowners) over the eight months of this project and five face-to-face sessions facilitated by RMCG.

Our landscape vision builds upon the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27, a blueprint for improving catchment health and resilience, that calls for collaboration and support from the diverse people, groups and organisations that live, work or invest in the Catchment.

We envisage to achieve our vision by implementing the following strategies.

### 3.2 — Our key principles

Six key principles have been developed to guide the delivery of the G2G Landscape Action Plan, based on the priorities expressed by our community and stakeholders :

Value for landholders

Healing Country

A changing climate

Stacked impacts

Multi-scale engagement

Coordinated action

#### 1 — Value for landholders

Value for landholders will be maximised through the exploration of new ecosystem service markets and other 'green' funding opportunities. These opportunities will be used as catalysts to scale up and reward landholder involvement in landscape restoration, with landholder aggregation removing barriers to market and funding access.

#### 2 — Healing Country

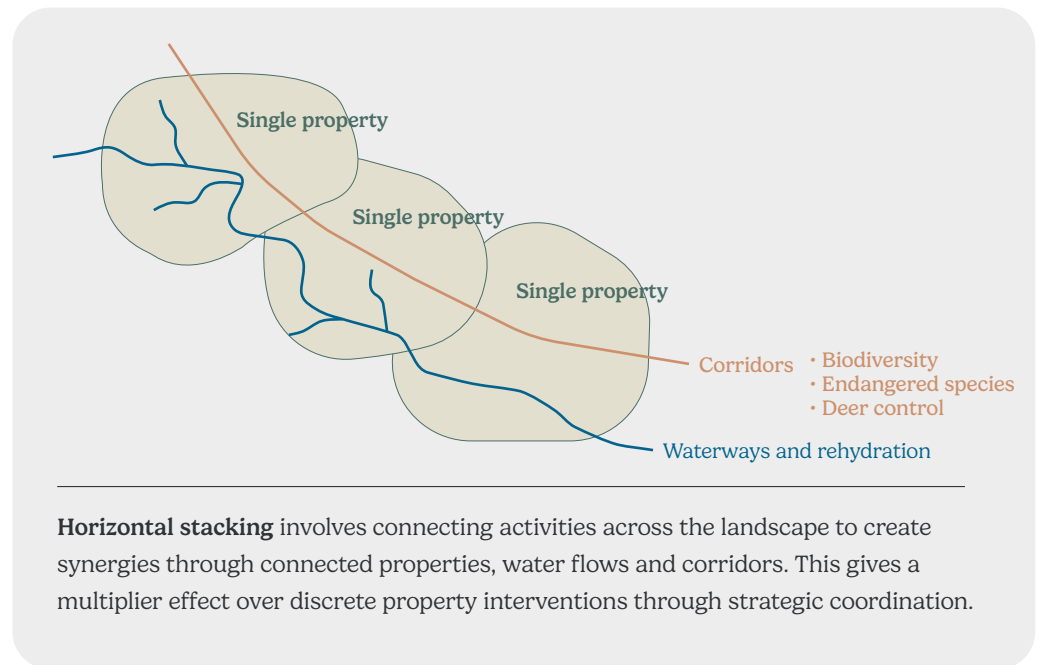
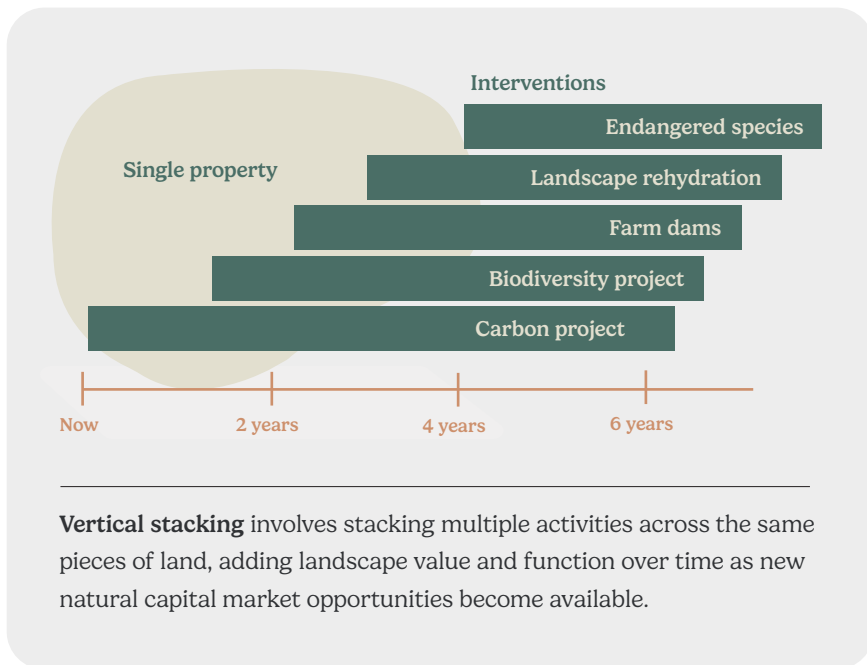
Taungurung people are recognised as the Traditional Owners of the landscape. Partnerships to heal and enable access to Country will be built at the pace of trust.

### 3 — A changing climate

Climate change is recognised as a key threat to the landscape. All actions will be delivered considering the adaptation required for the future climate.

### 4 — Stacked impacts

Value across the landscape and for landholders will be maximised by vertically and horizontally stacking activities.



### 5 — Multi-scale engagement

Small and large landholders will be engaged to participate in the implementation of the Landscape Action Plan. Their land uses and reasons to participate vary and will be considered in program or project design. To inspire practice change, tailored opportunities will be provided to engage in field days, educational activities and pilot site visits. Early successes will be used as both as templates for captured learning and as demonstration sites to accelerate engagement.



## 6 — Coordinated action

Funded resources will be allocated to engage and coordinate with landholders and partners for the delivery of the Landscape Action Plan. This includes building awareness, upskilling/education, removing friction for market transactions and facilitating linkage to investors.

### 3.3 — Landscape Goals, Strategic Objectives and Actions

Three overarching Goals have been identified for the Granite to Goulburn landscape to achieve the Vision. While these overarching strategies will help us get there, we acknowledge that the landscape is interconnected, and these strategies are overlapping and inter-related. Our goals are:



Figure 11: Granite to Goulburn landholders sharing land management knowledge (Source: Janet Hagen)



#### Profitable sustainable agriculture

Adoption of farming practices that improve the health and function of the landscape, while supporting profitable primary production.



#### Landscape rehydration

Waterways, dams, springs and soaks are enhanced, to slow water in the landscape and improve drought resilience, primary production and habitat availability, and reduce erosion.



#### Protection of threatened species and ecosystems

Protection, restoration and expansion of habitat for threatened wildlife and conservation of remnant areas of the threatened ecological community of Box Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands.

For each of these Goals, we have identified a range of Strategic Objectives and associated Key Actions that are summarised in the following pages. (Additionally, see Appendix 1 - Program Logic).

### 3.3.1 — Profitable Sustainable Agriculture



Goal	Strategic objectives	Key actions
<p>Adoption of farming practices that improve the health and function of the landscape, while supporting profitable primary production.</p> <p>This Goal recognises that improved landscape function contributes to soil health and farm productivity. It focuses on restoring the productive innate nature of degraded soils by restoring biotic and abiotic components and increasing soil hydration. This will support drought resilience and also maximise carbon sequestration on agricultural land.</p> <p>Several Strategic Objectives and Key Actions that aim to contribute to this Goal are outlined in Table 2.</p>	<p>1.1. Support landholders to plan for climate adaptation, whilst improving natural capital assets and managing production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide education, training and educational materials. Deliver workshops and farm field days that provide landholders with opportunities to learn about strategies to enhance natural capital assets, improve landscape function and increase drought resilience</li> <li>• Ensure landholders know where they can access information and support to plan for and implement changes to their property management</li> <li>• Periodic updates on new and emerging practices</li> <li>• Field days and site visits to demonstration sites</li> <li>• Develop regional cost/benefit models for practice adoption</li> <li>• Online mapping of land use areas and landscape attributes</li> </ul>
	<p>1.2. Facilitate access to environmental services markets through the aggregation of properties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop new cooperative aggregation model for Emissions Reduction Fund projects</li> <li>• Form regional groups with common landscape attributes</li> <li>• Prepare pitch material</li> <li>• Link landholders with investors</li> </ul>
	<p>1.3. Link producers to supply chain for rewarding ecosystem services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish model programs through co-design of market instruments</li> <li>• Explore new and innovative opportunities to collaboratively achieve Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) targets through improved landscape health</li> <li>• Expand existing supply chain ESG opportunities to include sheep, beef, fibre, and cropping</li> </ul>
	<p>1.4. Support farmers to adopt pasture, grazing and crop management practices that improve soil health, ground cover and reduce erosion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote peer-to-peer learning at farm field days where the benefits of best practice management methods are demonstrated</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to learn from agronomists, soil scientists and other land health practitioners about how to optimise soil health and stability</li> <li>• Provide education, training, and educational materials</li> <li>• Periodic updates on new and emerging practices</li> <li>• Field days and site visits to demonstration sites</li> <li>• Develop regional cost/benefit models for practice adoption</li> <li>• Forming community interest groups (e.g. grazing management)</li> </ul>

### 3.3.2 — Landscape Rehydration



Goal	Strategic objectives	Key actions
<p>Waterways, dams, springs and soaks are enhanced, to slow water in the landscape and improve drought resilience, primary production and habitat availability, and reduce erosion.</p> <p>This Goal focuses on restoring waterways, dams, springs and soaks, to improve landscape hydration and create healthy ecosystems, by fencing, increasing vegetation in riparian zones and connecting wetlands.</p> <p>Several Strategic Objectives and Key Actions that aim to contribute to this Goal are outlined in Table 3.</p>	<p>2.1. Provide education and engagement opportunities for landholders to inspire practice change to support landscape hydration and improve soil water holding capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run workshops or field days for landholders to share the science of landscape hydrology and demonstrate management actions to improve landscape hydration</li> <li>• Develop online and printed resources that outline the science and management actions of improving landscape hydration</li> </ul>
	<p>2.2. Improve soil water holding capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link wetlands and riparian zones through rehydration corridors</li> <li>• Improve soil health through improved ground cover, reduced tillage and grazing management</li> <li>• Provide education and training, and associated educational materials</li> <li>• Field days and site visits to demonstration sites</li> </ul>
	<p>2.3. Slowing the movement of water through the landscape to retain flows and reduce erosion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support adoption of rotational grazing practices that increase year-round pasture cover</li> <li>• Undertake trials of new interventions and techniques such as leaky weirs</li> <li>• Provide education and training, and associated educational materials</li> <li>• Field days and site visits to demonstration sites</li> <li>• Revegetation and stock exclusion of riparian areas</li> <li>• Fence waterways, dams, springs and soaks to control grazing pressure and create a buffer zone of ground cover vegetation; install of tanks and troughs for stock water</li> <li>• Establish areas of native reeds and rushes to slow water flow in creek lines and drainage areas</li> </ul>
	<p>2.4. Protect, restore and create habitat around farm dams, springs and soaks to improve water quality, while also creating biodiversity hotspots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fence waterways, dams, springs and soaks to control grazing pressure and create a buffer zone of ground cover vegetation; install of tanks and troughs for stock water</li> <li>• Maximise groundcover of grasses, rushes and sedges in dam inflow areas</li> <li>• Strategic revegetation with native trees and shrubs to support terrestrial biodiversity, and reduce wind speeds and therefore evaporation rates</li> <li>• Add habitat features such as semi-submerged branches, islands and shallow areas</li> </ul>

### 3.3.3 — Protection of threatened species and ecosystems



Goal	Strategic objectives	Key actions
<p>Protection, restoration and expansion of habitat for threatened wildlife and conservation of remnant areas of the threatened ecological community of Box Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grasslands.</p> <p>This Goal focuses on supporting the conservation of threatened species and ecosystems through restoring, protecting and connecting native ecosystems, increasing habitat, addressing threats, and incorporating Indigenous knowledge into recovery efforts.</p> <p>Several Strategic Objectives and Key Actions that aim to contribute to this Goal are outlined in Table 4.</p>	<p>3.1 Provide education and engagement opportunities for landholders to inspire practice change to protect threatened plants, animals and ecosystems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run workshops or field days for landholders to gain local ecological knowledge and expertise on best practice management actions</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for Traditional Owners to contribute to caring for Country and to share cultural knowledge</li> </ul>
	<p>3.2 Protect threatened vegetation communities and increase habitat for threatened species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the values and significance of Box Gum Grassy Woodland and associated threatened species through events, social media and newsletters</li> <li>• Strategic fencing to reduce grazing pressure in areas of remnant woodland and allow natural regeneration</li> <li>• Enhance the condition of remnant woodland and tree-only shelterbelts, by planting a diversity of locally native understory species (shrubs and groundcovers)</li> <li>• Increase the area of native habitat through revegetation with native trees and shrubs, focusing on areas and species that are unlikely to regenerate naturally</li> <li>• Mapping of priority weed species and promotion of best practice control measures to landholders</li> <li>• Undertake coordinated feral animal control activities at a landscape scale, with regular information sessions to get as many landholders as possible involved</li> </ul>
	<p>3.3 Restore habitat and threatened communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect priority local seed and establish seed production areas</li> <li>• Revegetate to increase the area of vegetation cover and connectivity</li> </ul>
	<p>3.4 Create biolinks and glideways across the landscape by expanding habitat through revegetation corridors that link natural assets such as remnant vegetation, paddock trees, shelterbelts, waterways and dams</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake landscape-scale planning to identify key natural assets and areas of native vegetation, and priority opportunities to increase connectivity</li> <li>• Strategically plant native trees and shrubs to create linkages between natural assets in the landscape, like paddock trees, waterways, dams, springs and soaks</li> <li>• Expand habitat through strategic revegetation that links new and existing corridors to increase connectivity for wildlife</li> <li>• Explore options like glider poles or rope bridges in built-up areas with major infrastructure</li> </ul>



## Optimising Outcomes for Biodiversity

The Granite to Goulburn landscape supports significant areas of native vegetation, including critically endangered Box Gum Grassy Woodland, and a remarkable diversity of native wildlife. The Objectives, Actions and Projects identified in this plan, offer the opportunity to make a significant contribution to biodiversity conservation within this landscape.

To optimise the benefits for biodiversity, conservation actions are based on the learnings from 25 years of long-term ecological monitoring and research on farms by the Australian National University's Sustainable Farms program.

Key learnings include:

- The first step is to protect the precious remnants of native vegetation that remain. The simple action of fencing a patch of remnant vegetation can lead to significant improvement in the condition of the vegetation, allowing natural regeneration to occur. With reduced trampling a ground cover of native grasses and leaf litter will also gradually establish.
- Enhance habitat quality by increasing structural complexity and floristic diversity. Ideally, an area of woodland will have a canopy of trees, an understory of tall and low shrubs, and a ground layer of native grasses and forbs, as well as fallen timber and leaf litter. However, in agricultural landscapes, many areas of woodland consist of only the tree layer. Enhancing the condition of degraded areas such as these by planting understory species (shrubs and groundcovers) and leaving fallen timber on the ground, can significantly improve habitat values for biodiversity.
- Increasing the area of native woodland vegetation is the single most important action for improving biodiversity in the agricultural landscapes of south-eastern Australia. This could be revegetation for a habitat planting, planting a multi-species shelterbelt, or even planting new paddock trees.
- Increasing connectivity between natural assets, such as remnant vegetation, paddock trees, shelterbelts, dams and rocky outcrops, will support movement of wildlife across the landscape and maximise the number of species present.
- Shelterbelts that include a diversity of understory species provide important habitat for many species, particularly during periods of drought. Some woodland bird species actually use shelterbelts and plantings more often than remnant woodland.
- Enhanced farm dams are biodiversity hotspots that support a diversity of aquatic species as well as providing resources for terrestrial species such as woodland birds. Plantings of native trees and shrubs beside dams have been found to be prime breeding areas for woodland birds.

For further information: [www.sustainablefarms.org.au](http://www.sustainablefarms.org.au)

### 3.4 — Landscape outcomes

The outcomes resulting from the implementation of the G2G Landscape Action Plan will include:

#### Short-Term Outcomes - by June 2026

The first 12 months will be essential to enacting and enabling the delivery of the Plan. During this time the outcomes delivered will include:

- 1 — G2G governance hub for delivery is established and partnerships are formalised to deliver the Plan
- 2 — Paid resources are employed in the hub to coordinate the delivery of the Plan and action-specific project plans are developed
- 3 — An aggregated group of landholders completing their first environmental market transaction
- 4 — Investment is secured for the first three years of delivery
- 5 — Walking on Country with Taungurung is regularly practiced, helping to build trust and relationships
- 6 — A partnership is consolidated with Taungurung in healing and caring for Yawang Biik (Stone Country)
- 7 — New landholders are recruited to participate in aggregation for environmental market access.
- 8 — Local supply chain participants are engaged in exploring opportunities to achieve their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) targets through collaboration on landscape restoration
- 9 — The G2G has become an established hub that coordinates and drives holistic landscape restoration in the area

#### Medium-Term Outcomes - by 2035

Within ten years of the Plan's commencement, significant engagement and adoption of changed practices to support landscape function will be achieved, including the following outcomes:

- 1 — 30% of private land is managed for landscape health and function in harmony with agriculture and cultural heritage
- 2 — 300 new landholders are supported to access environmental services or supply chain opportunities for landscape outcomes
- 3 — 2,000 private landholders have undertaken additional action to restore landscape health and function
- 4 — \$20 million is attracted and invested to improve landscape health and function.
- 5 — The G2G has become a model of excellence to look up to for community-driven holistic landscape management with multiple positive outcomes, as described in the Four Returns Framework.

#### Long-Term Outcomes by 2050

The long-term outcomes will be achieved on smaller scales during the short and medium term, however the outcomes sought for the whole G2G landscape by 2050 include:

- 1 — Farm productivity and profitability is improved, in harmony with the health and function of the landscape and cultural heritage.
- 2 — Landholders are skilled in landscape restoration and being fairly paid for ecosystem services
- 3 — Landscape hydration is functioning to make best use of available rainfall, with slowed water flows, reduced erosion, increased water availability and quality, supporting the needs of primary production.
- 4 — The landscape is connected, healthy and thriving, and it supports and sustains all beings

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## 4. Landscape investment strategy

### 4.1 — Enabling coordination and implementation

As detailed in the short-term outcomes, essential steps must be taken within the first 12 months of the Plan's operation to ensure its successful implementation. This will involve significant 'enabling investment' to establish a G2G Hub, as a formalisation of the existing G2G collaboration, with skilled resources to support the implementation of the landscape plan.

Responsibilities of the hub will include:

- Owning and maintaining the G2G Landscape Action Plan
- Building a unique selling proposition for project funding from a hyper local to global scale.
- Removing friction for market transactions and establishing linkage to investors
- Prioritisation of projects/interventions and identifying community co-benefits
- Engagement – building awareness amongst landholders/community
- Acting as a prime contractor/bidder for major grants and projects
- Providing upskilling/education to improve local capability and understanding
- Maintaining a pipeline of prospective landholder projects and preparing for “shovel-ready”
- Program management of projects as they proceed from ideation, feasibility, sales, through to implementation and reporting

The intention is that this hub will be funded in the long term as part of the project investment strategy detailed below. However, in the short term, interim funding will be required for the initial establishment of the hub, to build capabilities that will evolve into self-funding operations.

To implement the above responsibilities, the hub will initially require two resources:

- Landscape Coordinator - responsible for coordinating development of the landscape plans and connecting them with the strategies
- Business Development Officer - responsible for driving execution of the strategies (building the brand; securing support from local economy stakeholders/supply chains; connecting with extra-regional support)

These resources could be implemented as two dedicated staff or composed of some combination of part time resources making up the equivalent full-time-equivalent capabilities. In addition, there will be specialist supporting services required for project feasibility assessments, education and training. Finally, a leadership and governance model will need to be implemented to provide appropriate oversight





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and accountability back to investors, and to direct and scale up as the plan is implemented. We estimate that the establishment and first two years of operation of the hub would require approximately \$750,000. Once the G2G Hub has built a portfolio of funded landscape intervention projects, it will be self-funding on an ongoing basis through provision of support services and local partnerships.

The steps required for the establishment of the hub are:

- 1 — Establish clear leadership and governance model
- 2 — Secure commitment for interim investment from philanthropic and government grants
- 3 — Recruit and appoint Landscape Coordinator and Business Development roles
- 4 — Formalise G2G partnerships and specialist service providers

Once these foundational elements are in place, detailed project plans will be prepared for the initial projects below, and work will commence on building the pipeline of landholders, investors, and projects to realise the long-term vision for this landscape.



## 4.2 Target investors

There are four different investor types we have identified, for which G2G can offer strong value propositions for investment in this Plan. These are:

- Philanthropic and government
- Environmental markets
- Supply chain
- Local economy.

Investor type	Value proposition	Mechanism
Philanthropic and government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building</li> <li>• Adoption and uptake of improved practices</li> <li>• Environmental outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants</li> <li>• Co-investment</li> </ul>
Environmental markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory compliance</li> <li>• Lowering emissions</li> <li>• Meeting ESG goals</li> <li>• Social license to operate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance Offset credits (e.g. ACCUs)</li> <li>• Voluntary offset credits (e.g. Biodiversity credits, carbon credits, BWGW credits)</li> <li>• Nature positive credits</li> <li>• Co-funding origination projects</li> </ul>
Supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building brand value</li> <li>• Reducing cost for ESG claims</li> <li>• Social license to operate</li> </ul>	Supply shed (e.g. sustainable produce) Supplier incentives (e.g. low emissions intensity beef)
Local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New business opportunities</li> <li>• Increased employment</li> <li>• Food provenance</li> <li>• Sourcing local credits (e.g. for shire)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct-to-consumer/ farm-to-fork/ paddock to plate</li> <li>• Farmer Cooperatives</li> <li>• Community businesses and social enterprises</li> <li>• New Product/ Service providers to support environmental markets</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Renewables infrastructure</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.1 — Philanthropic and government grants

Through the existing landcare networks, we will continue to pursue small scale property grants and co-funding arrangements, covering:

- Fencing farm dams and riparian zones
- Preserving and restoring bogs/soaks
- Revegetation on private land
- Connecting remnant vegetation areas through wildlife corridors.

We will also target grants to invest in building local capacity in the areas of:

- Establishing and kickstarting the G2G Hub (see Section 4.1) and securing the required resources.
- Training and awareness building in the relevant environmental market projects to accelerate uptake.
- Lowering barriers to entry for environmental markets (e.g. subsidise soil sampling or tree planting costs to accelerate uptake).

Finally, in collaboration with our key partners, we will pursue larger landscape-scale grants, where this provides the opportunity to co-fund or support interventions that involve multiple properties taking coordinated action across our landscape.

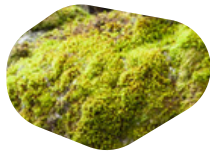
#### 4.2.2 — Environmental markets

Environmental markets will provide a growing proportion of the required landscape investment for this Plan and are the key mechanism for scaling up activities within the G2G landscape.

In these projects, landholders identify the natural capital assets on their farms and the ecosystem services those assets provide, such as: habitat for wildlife, shelter for livestock, improved soil health, emissions reduction or carbon sequestration, and clean water in creeks and rivers. We then work with landholders to identify interventions that can access private and public environmental markets to receive new revenue streams in return for these services.

In the short term, the only existing environmental market available that is suitable to our landscape is the carbon market. Although there are many different types of projects that can access the carbon market, we have identified two methods under the Federal Government's Emission Reduction Fund (ERF) scheme that fit with our landscape plan, and are attractive for landholders, which are:

- Soil organic carbon sequestration using measurement and models
- Reforestation by environmental plantings.



In the medium term, we expect other market opportunities to emerge that will stack value for existing landholders, if they are already undertaking carbon projects. These opportunities include improvements to farm dams, biodiversity credits for Box Gum Grassy Woodlands, improvements to landscape rehydration, and preservation of endangered species. Opportunities and estimated time frames are summarised below (starting from 2025).

		Project type and timeframe						
		Soil- C	Env. planting	Supply chain emissions	Box gum woodland	Farm dam	Landscape rehydration	Native animal
Land Management Units	Cleared / grazing	\$\$\$	\$\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
	Sparse tree paddock	\$\$\$	\$\$	\$	\$			\$
	Wooded grazing		\$\$	\$	\$			\$
	Wooded non-grazing				\$			\$
	Dams					\$	\$	\$
	Riparian						\$	\$
		Now		1-2 years		3-5 years		

This table also provides an indication of the likely relative value of each project type to landholders:

- Soil Carbon projects have the largest upfront investment requirements, require large areas of land typically under grazing, have the longest payback periods, but offer the largest potential returns.
- Environmental planting projects offer moderate returns, can be applied to smaller project areas, and have lower uncertainty/risk.
- Supply chain incentives for lower emissions intensity have a much lower risk and cost, as they are likely to initially be available only under the voluntary markets, but for a more modest return (see section 4.2.3 below).
- Box gum grassy woodlands and farm dam credits are not yet available but will likely emerge over the next 1-2 years.

Through the G2G Hub, we will provide tools and ongoing assistance in assessing and quantifying the feasibility of these projects for individual landholders and linking projects to investors.

→ Limitations

One of the major impediments to accessing these environmental markets is the significant fixed and ongoing costs associated with the project, including baselining, third party audits and other regulatory compliance tasks. This means projects need to be at a minimum scale to provide a return over and above these fixed costs. We highlight that in our landscape, there are many landholders who will not have sufficient scale on their own to justify an environmental markets project, particularly for compliance markets where the highest revenue opportunities exist.

To overcome this problem, we are exploring aggregation models that will enable these smaller properties to participate in larger projects that aggregate multiple properties and landholders into one large



project/transaction. This is particularly important given our strategy around linking individual property interventions together across the landscape. This approach could be attractive for soil carbon and environmental planting projects, where interventions are not economically feasible for individual landholders, but when collaborating the aggregated projects become viable.

#### 4.2.3 — Supply chain

Supply chain participants will be increasingly demanding that Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) claims they are making are credibly supported, and that those claims can be transparently and independently verified. By aggregating producers with a method for verified claims, it is possible to create supply shed agreements<sup>7</sup> that deliver greater confidence to consumers, mitigate greenwashing risks, and optimise return on investment (ROI) across the supply chain.

We are working with Regen Farmers Mutual to establish such an agreement, initially with a mechanism to reward beef producers that can deliver products with lower emissions intensity (that is, kg CO<sub>2</sub> per kg of live weight produced). We will pilot this approach to quantify the economic benefits for producers, and then look to broaden to other types of production that occur in our landscape, particularly where our landscape, location and climate provide natural advantages that can be exploited.

#### 4.2.4 — Local economy

In the longer term, the local economy will be a significant beneficiary of this Plan, and therefore an important source of investment. This includes:

- New business opportunities created to provide products and services to support environmental markets (such as soil sampling services, consulting and advisory);
- Establishment of direct-to-consumer cooperatives, leveraging the brand value resulting from food and fibre production, that is better aligned to consumer values and expectations, with credible and verifiable linkage from farm to fork (e.g. “G2G Beef”);
- Community business and social enterprises that support project interventions (such as Euroa Arboretum) or benefit from increased local activity (such as tourism activities e.g. “Walk Ruffy”).

→ Example: Strathbogie Shire Council is seeking to buy carbon credits from projects within its Local Government Area footprint. The Council owns large blocks of cleared land that could be planted for biodiversity + carbon outcomes. Euroa Arboretum is looking for non-private land to establish seed production orchards on. The G2G Hub would make the connection to allow the Strathbogie Shire to offset their carbon emissions on their own land (this could be via a leasing arrangement), while Euroa Arboretum could design, plant and harvest seed from this plantation, stacking land uses and benefits.

7. Regen Farmers Mutual - [www.regenfarmersmutual.com](http://www.regenfarmersmutual.com)

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## 5. Proposed projects

### Grazing management to improve soil health

→ The pitch: Adopting grazing management strategies to improve soil health and water holding capacity.

→ Project description: The project will focus on the adoption of improved grazing management strategies, resulting in improved soil health, greater biomass production, reduced costs and higher margins. A group of properties interested in grazing management will be recruited, with a view to potentially aggregate them up into a single soil carbon project, with benefits from cost sharing of training/education/service providers. Revenue streams for participants will be achieved through either soil carbon Emissions Reduction Fund projects, voluntary markets, reduced intensity incentives via the supply chain, or other commercial mechanisms. It is intended that farmers achieve a positive return on the cost of changed practice through improved resilience and forage availability, with carbon revenues forming a bonus incentive.

→ Timeline:

2025/H1 - Awareness campaign and feasibility studies conducted by hub.

2025/H2 - Initial tranche of five farm participants begins.

2026 - First showcase farm field day, add five new participants.

→ Outputs:

- Ten farms adopting improved grazing management strategies in the first two years.
- Measurable results: improved water holding capacity, greater biomass production, reduced reliance on external inputs (chemicals, hay, etc), reduced costs and higher margins.
- Improved food quality, lower carbon emissions and higher market prices.

→ Project cost:

- 1 — Hub costs: providing enabling services such as feasibility studies, awareness programs and education (\$10,000 per farm) to build adoption.
- 2 — Carbon project costs: setting up aggregation, project eligibility/registration, baseline sampling costs (this could be funded by project developer partners, grant or subsidised loan funding, or a farmers individual business case).
- 3 — Farm implementation costs: implementing wire and water infrastructure and managing a grazing plan (this is highly specific to the needs of each individual farm and costs would be borne by the farmer based on future returns).

## Restoring the giant sponge

→ The pitch: Restoring riparian zones, springs, bogs and soaks in the G2G catchment to improve habitat and water quality.

→ Project description: Perch boggy shrubland is unique to the Strathbogie Ranges; it absorbs and holds water, performing a critical function in the landscape, earning its name of Giant Sponge. This project will leverage the Pilot 10 landholders from the G2G New Futures pilot and other potential neighbouring landholders who want to join this restoration effort. Expanding the buffer zone along local waterways and wetlands, as well as excluding stock access, will improve water quality and habitat for threatened species, such as platypus, Macquarie perch, and other native fauna and flora.

→ Timeline: 2025-2030

→ Outputs:

- Starting with four intersecting properties along local waterways
- Eight landholders along local waterways by 2030
- Eighty hectares of riparian and wetland areas fenced and revegetated by 2030.

→ Project cost:

\$160,000 (initial estimate based on \$2,000 per hectare for planting and site management).

## Environmental plantings for shade and shelter

→ The pitch: Establishing the next generation of paddock shade and shelter as mature trees are dying at an alarming rate

→ Project description: Paddock trees are dying back due to a lack of understorey and stock camping underneath. Increasing vegetation would encourage more birdlife in the landscape, which in return controls insect pests that attack mature trees, e.g. lerp infestations.

Each landholder will undertake an Environmental Planting ERF carbon project, some can be commercial individually, others may need to be aggregated to be viable.

The project will design multiple windbreaks and tree plantations with a strategic layout, linking habitats and remnant vegetation into new corridors to enhance biodiversity.

→ Timeline: 2025-2030

→ Outputs:

- Reversing tree health issues on ten properties
- Improving stock health by providing shade and shelter in every paddock
- 10+ properties involved in revegetating 300 hectares over five years

→ Project cost:

\$3,000,000 to be funded by carbon revenues.

## Improving the hydrology of the Burnt Creek basin

→ The pitch: Promoting a holistic approach to the restoration of landscape hydrology

→ Project description: This project aims to improve the hydrology and soil properties of existing farmland on the plains, to address waterlogging and cracking. This can be done through increasing the water holding capacity of our soils and understanding the importance of fungi, soil microbes, compost and dung beetles. Three of the ten Pilot landholders from the G2G landscape are in the Longwood Plains (Palmers, Bates and the Turosi poultry breeder complex) and they all experience similar issues with clay soils that become waterlogged when there's an abundance of rain, and crack when dry, which poses multiple challenges. This project will research ways to integrate intensive food industry and agriculture with environmental outcomes, collaborating to solve common issues.

→ Timeline: 2025-2035

→ Outputs:

- Improve water quality in Burnt Creek.
- Control of nutrient loads.
- Improved soil health.

→ Project cost: \$ 220,000

## Supply shed for reduced-carbon-emissions-intensity beef

→ The pitch: Reward farmers for lowering the carbon intensity of beef production.

→ Project Description: Negotiate with local supply chain participants to implement a scheme for rewarding farmers who are lowering the carbon intensity to produce beef cattle. This would occur in the form of a premium added to the price paid to producers by processors. The project involves establishing systems and processes that provide a transparent mechanism for independently verifying the carbon intensity for each beef producer, in a manner that meets the needs for supply chain ESG reporting. The project will involve one local processor and up to 10 local producers.

→ Timeline: 2025-2035

→ Outputs:

- Lowering carbon emissions of local producers, to achieve 30% less than the average beef farmer

→ Project cost: \$ 250,000



## Taungurung River Keepers for the Hughes Creek

→ The pitch: Restored access and connection to Hughes Creek Waterway

→ Project description: This project aims to make Hughes Creek accessible to Traditional Owners to reconnect with lost Country and support Taungurung to undertake activities that will improve the waterway's health. This will be done by involving landowners along Hughes Creek, organising regular cultural walks and monitoring the health of the waterway. Priority actions include habitat enhancement for the threatened Macquarie Perch, e.g. reducing the amount of sand and sediments and creating refuge pools; reducing the number of introduced fish species; monitoring the waterway's health and the effects of environmental protections. In line with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's project to protect Macquarie Perch in the Catchment, and in Hughes Creek, working with the community to improve the creek's health. A long-term aim is to reconnect this population to the Goulburn River.

→ Timeline: 2025-ongoing

→ Outputs:

- 15 landholders with creek frontage involved in the project
- Improved habitat for the threatened Macquarie Perch: reducing the numbers of introduced fish species (carp, redfin), reduced sand sediments, creation of refuge pools
- Reconnecting Hughes Creek's Macquarie Perch population to the Goulburn River (long-term)

→ Project cost

\$250,000/year

## Creating Greater Glideways

→ The pitch: Connecting gliders' habitats with Glideways

→ Project Description: The Glideway project aims to extend and connect currently isolated populations of the endangered Southern Greater Glider on the ranges and Squirrel Glider populations on the Longwood Plains to improve the resilience of the species and increase the available habitat. Connecting the habitat between Hughes Creek headlands and TeripTerip will provide alternative food sources and increase the genetic diversity within the populations. Glideways increase connectivity across the landscape for these species, allowing migration to more climate-proof refuges and buffering a fragmented population from bushfire threats. Restoring the vegetation along the Glideway corridor will restore habitat to the benefit of not only gliders but for other species as well. The work builds on citizen-science surveys of local populations conducted by Strathbogie Ranges Conservation.

→ Timeline: 2025-2030

→ Outputs:

- Increased population size, genetic diversity and dispersal potential for populations of the endangered Southern Greater Glider and the Squirrel Glider.
- Climate-proof refugia for the endangered Southern Greater Glider and the Squirrel Glider.
- Enhanced habitat for gliders results in flow-on benefits for many other species.

→ Project cost

\$300,000 for the first year, then \$100,000/year to run the project

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## 6. Landholder case studies

Landholders are imperative to delivering the G2G Landscape Action Plan. Having a variety of opportunities and incentives that work for them is vital. We've profiled some of the local landholders who will help drive our Plan.

### Susie and Jack Bate

Susie and Jack are Longwood Plains residents and sheep farmers. Susie is a committed landcarer who has extensive experience and is self-educated in soil health, regenerative agriculture and carbon emissions.

The property is 360 hectares across two locations in the Longwood Plains. Benacre (240ha), where the couple live, has been run regeneratively for the past four years. Improvements include the fencing off of Burnt Creek and a biodiversity corridor. They have also fenced off seven areas around dying paddock trees, which have been planted out with understory.

Susie and Jack have adopted a rotational grazing management approach using charts and software, shifting from 12 paddocks to 25 paddocks. The couple use no chemicals on the farm and promote multi-species cover crops and biological foliar fertilisers to improve soil health. They have recently put troughs into every paddock from bores on the property.



Tabilk (120 ha) is a recent purchase which has four paddocks and five dams. It has had corridors and they have been continued on the rest of the farm with planting and direct seeding.

Susie's aspirations include bringing others on the journey of land management that prepares land for climate change stresses and improves agricultural outcomes. The couple would like to fence off their dams and develop Tabilk to enable rotational grazing, which will require more fencing and pasture management.

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Paddock plantation at Benacre.



The view of Looking Glass.

### Cam Stewart and Steph Reeves

Cam and Stephanie are part time farmers with professional jobs in Melbourne, and they own a 1400 acre beef cattle property at Dropmore, called 'Looking Glass'.

They have been involved in Landcare projects to reduce weeds, improve grazing practices and build soil health for many years. Steph and Cam have done revegetation projects with GBCMA and HCCC Landcare in the past and have fenced most waterways and wetlands.

Cam and Steph are interested in producing carbon neutral beef through implementing more regenerative farming practises and possibly also entering into a carbon project. They know what their current carbon emissions are and are moving towards lowering these further. They are interested in entering supply chain agreements in the beef market that reward low carbon emissions and high biodiversity farmers.

### Justus and Janet Hagen

Justus and Janet Hagen live off the grid in Ruffy on a 370 hectares property, that they have owned for... years . They are long time Landcare people who are committed to nature conservation and regenerative farming, as demonstrated by the Trust for Nature covenant on their property. The couple run beef cattle and fat lambs and recognises overgrazing and soil compaction as big issues. They are also looking for better managing their property in the face of a drying climate.

Justus and Janet are interested in the new green markets as a way to earn extra income but are wary of engaging with the carbon market without unbiased support from a trusted source.

They love the G2G project because it works at a scale that fosters a feeling of belonging, a sense of identity, a love of place and the natural environment, plus meaningful engagement in community projects.

“A Hub and this landscape plan give our already environmentally aware community a map for where we are going to focus our efforts in a rapidly changing world.”



An improved dam on Janet and Justus' property.

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### Michael and Cathy Homewood

Michael and Cathy have professional jobs in Melbourne and for thirty years they have owned Crystal Brook, an 89 hectares (220 acres) property in Ruffly. The property features hilly granite outcrops, native and planted trees and understory species, including native grasses. They run sheep and cattle, but to preserve the native grasses they make sure to allow only light grazing.

Over the years their activities have been focused on fencing off and planting riparian zones, while the overall goal was to optimise landscape health by incorporating soil, pasture, native animals, livestock, vegetation and carbon into the equation.

Looking towards the future, Michael and Cathy are clear about their medium- and long-term goals. Over the next six to twelve months, they are planning to fence off an area of 300 square meters to preserve a soak and to deal with the recurring blackberry issue. Over the next two to three years, they are going to address other weeds in and on the banks of Crystal Brook, while trying to avoid erosion risks.





Having calculated their current carbon emissions, they are aiming to lower them and to be able to sell grassfed low carbon cattle, direct to the abattoir and preferably slaughtered on site.



## 7. Monitoring and Impact Framework

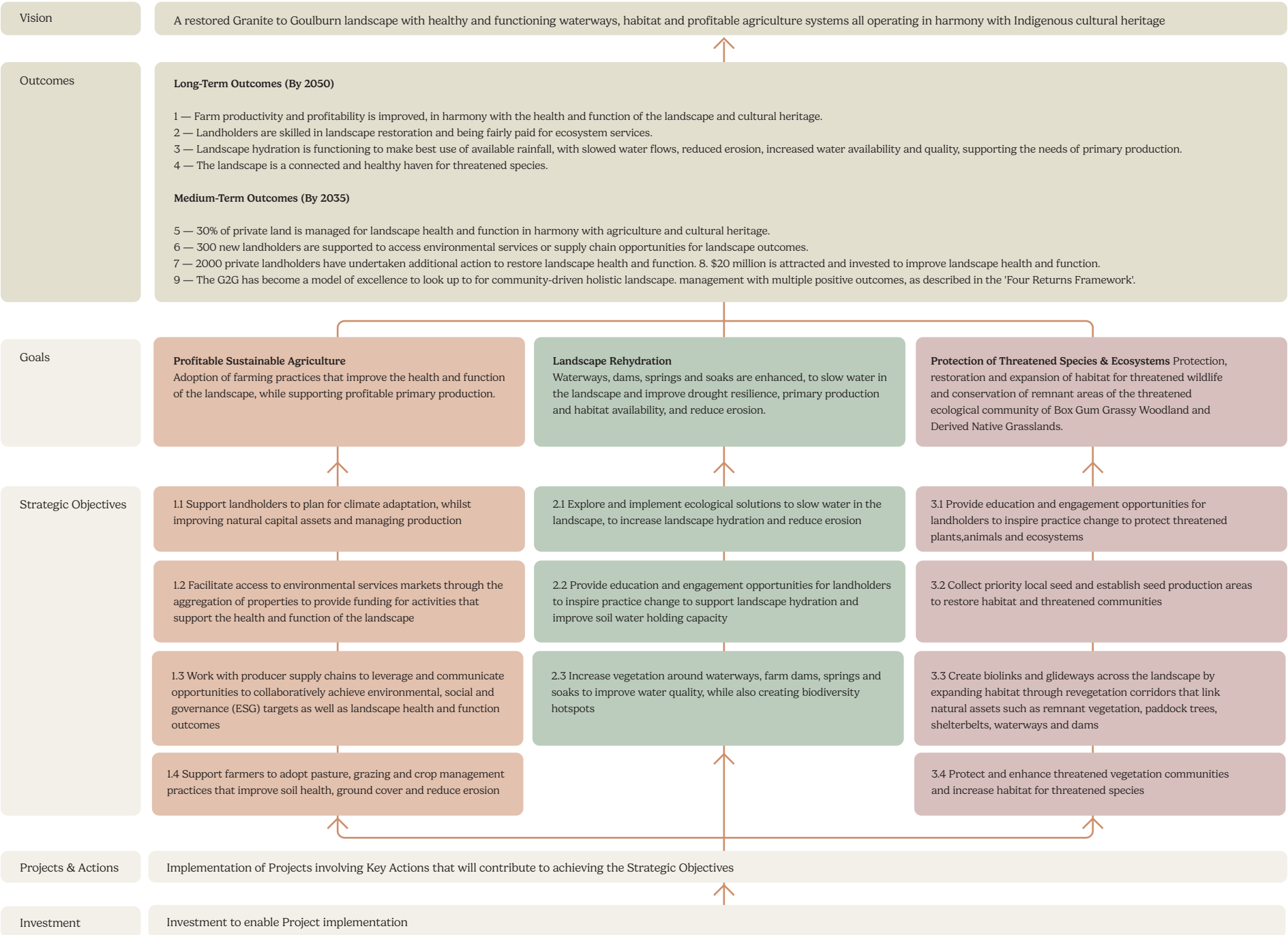
Using the Four Returns Framework, the G2G Network have selected some high-level indicators to monitor as the Landscape Action Plan is implemented. We will develop specific monitoring and learning plans for each funded project.

Measuring and communicating progress will allow us to tell our impact story and adapt our management as necessary.<sup>9</sup>

Impact Returns	Indicator	Target 2050	Status 2024
 Inspirational	Shared Vision	1	1
	Organisations/partners involved	20	15
	Community Workshops	20	4
	Showcase sites	10	0
 Social	New Farmers/ landholders participating	300	10
	Landholders undertaking additional action	2000	0
	Community Organisations created	10	0
	Employment created (FTE)	50	0
 Natural	CO2 Sequestered (tCO2e)	9M	0
	Ha farmland under new practices	120,000	0
	Km waterway improved	100	0
	Km habitat corridors added	300	0
	Habitat restored (ha)	8,000	0
	Habitat protected (ha)	2,000	0
	Endangered species assisted	10	0
 Financial	Business plans/proposals developed	500	0
	Investment Proposals submitted (\$)	20M	0
	Natural Capital Asset funding (\$)	360M	0
	Enabling Funding secured (\$)	5M	0
	Local finance mechanisms created	1	0

9. The 4 Returns Framework For Landscape Restoration, Dudley Et Al. July 2023

# Appendix 1: Program Logic





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