

Please draw a sketch map here showing your property and the location of your proposed project:



How much do you expect your project to cost?	\$
How much are you requesting as an incentive payment?	\$

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Further information

Please feel free to attach any further details of your project to support your application. An officer from Latrobe City Council will be in contact to discuss short-listed projects.

### Incentive Conditions

An officer from Latrobe City Council will normally inspect short-listed project sites to assess them prior to any incentive being considered.

Works must be completed within 12 months of the award of an incentive.

Landholders who receive incentive payments must allow follow-up inspections by Latrobe City Council officers on request.

### Please send this form to

Kevin Roberts, Sustainability Advisor,  
Latrobe City Council, PO Box 264 Morwell 3840  
Or email to [Kevin.Roberts@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:Kevin.Roberts@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

### The Incentive Scheme

Native vegetation and biodiversity contribute to the public good and so Latrobe City Council has established a small fund to assist private landholders in the municipality with the costs of protecting and enhancing native vegetation and biodiversity on their property. Biodiversity includes any locally indigenous, wild species and native vegetation includes locally indigenous trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs.

### Application dates

Applications may be made at any time but funding is limited and the scheme will be closed for the year once all the funding has been allocated.

**Round 1** Applications received by the end of December will be considered in January each year.

**Round 2** If any funds remain, further applications received by the end of April will be considered in May.

The maximum incentive payable for any one property in a single year is normally \$500.

### For further information

Please contact Kevin Roberts, Sustainability Advisor at Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700 or 0417 304196. Alternatively, email [kevin.roberts@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:kevin.roberts@latrobe.vic.gov.au)

#### Other Assistance

##### Department of Sustainability and Environment

Phone: 136 186 (rare and threatened species, community group small grants, wildlife information, wildlife refuges,

##### Land for Wildlife scheme, incentive and trading schemes).

Department of Primary Industries

Phone: 136 186 (weed and pest problems).

##### Trust for Nature

Phone: 1800 999933 (to covenant bush properties).

##### Greening Australia

Phone: 03 5152 3099 (regional office based at DPI in Bairnsdale—a not-for-profit organisation that provides advice, management and revegetation services).

##### Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network

Phone: 1300 094262 (based at West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Traralgon).

*To obtain this information in languages other than English, or in other formats (including audio, electronic, Braille or large print), please contact Latrobe City Council on 1300 367 700.*



# Native Vegetation and Biodiversity

## PROTECTION INCENTIVE SCHEME



### For protection of native vegetation and biodiversity through:

- Protection or enhancement of existing remnants, e.g. through stock fencing, weed control, provision of nest boxes or re-introductions
- Revegetation to extend or connect remnants
- Biodiversity survey, assessment, planning and capacity-building (e.g. courses and handbooks)
- Wetland creation and maintenance
- Other conservation actions

# Protecting native vegetation and biodiversity in Latrobe City

## Application form

### WHY INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE

#### How much bush is left?

Only around 23% of the original native vegetation cover remains within Latrobe City and this is largely a result of widespread clearing for timber and cattle grazing from the mid to late 1800's. A large proportion of this remaining native vegetation is classified as Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare and is an extremely valuable asset for the community.

#### Why is the loss of bush a problem?

Native vegetation and biodiversity is critical for sustainable land management, and to maintain essential healthy ecosystems that supply us all with clean air, water and food. Clearance causes salinity, erosion, climate change and loss of biodiversity. It threatens tourism, agricultural production and property values.

#### How much bush do we need?

Research indicates we need 30-35% bush for a sustainable landscape. Below this level, biodiversity extinction accelerates. One study found that pasture productivity peaked on farms with 34% bush.

#### The way forward

The clearance of native vegetation requires a permit under the Planning Scheme, and it is a State Government policy to ensure there is a net gain in native vegetation across the landscape. Revegetation is essential, but protecting and enhancing remnant vegetation has priority because of its much greater value for biodiversity. Landholders protecting and enhancing their native vegetation are contributing to the public good. This scheme recognises their contribution and aims to assist them.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Property address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone BH \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone AH \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

	YES	NO
Is your property located within Latrobe City? Only properties in Latrobe City are eligible.		
Is your property covenanted with Trust for Nature or registered Land for Wildlife with DSE?		
Are you a member of an environmental group, e.g. LandCare, Friends Group, naturalists' club?		
Have you applied for any other funding support for this project?		

#### Application type (please tick)

- Rate rebate (Trust for Nature covenants only)  
Number of hectares covenanted \_\_\_\_\_ ha.
- Exclusion of stock by fencing native vegetation
- Extension / enlargement of native vegetation
- Creating / extending wildlife corridors
- Provision of nestboxes / artificial hollows
- Weed or pest control within native vegetation
- Survey or planning for conservation
- Capacity-building: e.g. training, identification aids
- Wetland creation or maintenance
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please see reverse side of application