

Nature Connectivity

Nature

Credit: 37

Points: 2

Outcome

Wildlife movement is facilitated within and adjacent to the site.

Criteria

Credit Achievement	2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site must be built to encourage species connectivity through the site, and to adjacent sites. If there is a wider nature strategy as relevant to the project, the project should contribute to it.
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Additional information

Stage implementation

Strategy	Brief	Concept	Design	Tender	Construction	Handover	Use
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Synergies with other credits

- Connection to Nature
- Impacts to Nature
- Biodiversity Enhancement
- Waterway Protection

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 15 (Life on Land)

Relevant reporting initiatives

- None

Requirements

Credit Achievement

The project must comply with the following criteria:

- Species and Habitat Connectivity

Species and Habitat Connectivity

The site may include any of the following strategies:

- **Landscaping:** Where connectivity is being achieved through landscaping, this must be contiguous or consistent with discontinuous linkages across the landscape as relevant to the target species including existing, restored, and new habitats. As a minimum requirement for habitat connectedness, the conservation area must make up at least 25% of the total external area (this can be in, on or around buildings' curtilage) within the building's site boundary. To be eligible, this must be at least 182m²
- **Infrastructure:** Design features such as a canopy bridge, wildlife tunnels, green roofs, reptile tunnels and green infrastructure are used to connect nature on site to adjacent natural areas, which are either existing, restored, or new.

For both pathways, the project is to provide a narrative on how the pathway would support the targeted wildlife species.

In addition to the above, If there is a wide nature strategy, that governs the surrounding area, the project team must demonstrate how its design and landscaping contribute to the goals of the strategy.

Submission content

Submissions for this credit must contain:

- **Submission form**
- **Evidence** to support claims made in the submission

Recommended evidence:

- Site Plans marked up with landscaping, showing it is contiguous or consistent with discontinuous linkages across the landscape
- Aerial Site Photographs marked up with landscaping, showing it is contiguous or consistent with discontinuous linkages across the landscape
- Report on the types of infrastructure implemented
- A report establishing the local species identified that a habitat would need to be provided for
- Report on how designs support targeted indigenous fauna or specific introduced species
- Drawings detailing that habitat design
- How the design contributes to "Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy" and other current indigenous and biodiversity strategies and policies.

Alternate documentation can also be used by project teams to demonstrate compliance.

The recommended evidence listed above is applicable to the as built submission. See the Design Assessment section in the Introduction for more information on submitting evidence for the Design assessment.

The key requirement is that evidence is provided to support each claim made within the Submission form.

Guidance

Building location

It is noted that for buildings located in the CBD the infrastructure pathway may be difficult to implement. The project team are encouraged to meet this criterion through the landscaping pathway.

Blue grid (Natural Water Corridor)

A blue grid is defined as the hydrological pattern of a district. The Blue Grid offers an opportunity to use water systems as an interconnected network and improve the water and ecological quality of waterways along the entirety of the hydrological system.

As per Sydney Green Grid: Spatial Framework and Project Opportunities, considerations for Blue Grids include:

- Permanent Water Bodies
- Wetlands
- Coastline
- Harbour and Estuaries
- Stormwater Infrastructure
- Catchment Data
- Easements
- Major Pipelines
- Stormwater Pits
- Streets

Green grid (Natural Land Corridor)

The green grid is defined as the ecological grid of a district. It attempts to protect and enhance the natural resources and biodiversity of the district by improving the quality of terrestrial habitats, creating green habitat corridors, and protecting endangered and local ecological communities.

As per Sydney Green Grid: Spatial Framework and Project Opportunities, considerations for Green Grids include:

- Open space inventory
- Vegetation Mapping by State government department
- Vegetation Zones
- Metropolitan Bike Path Plan
- Regional Trails
- Streets
- Easements
- Major metro infrastructure
- Landform

Green and blue grids

Projects should contact their local municipality to determine whether the project sits within a wider Green or Blue Grid or connectivity strategy.

Relationship with *Biodiversity Enhancement Credit*

If landscaping is provided as per the Biodiversity Enhancement credit, it can contribute towards this credit provided it is contiguous or consistent with discontinuous linkages across the landscape.

Definitions

Green Roofs

A green roof is defined as a roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and a growing medium.

Supporting information

The following resources support this credit:

- Advice on developing and planting green roofs is available from local and regional Councils.
- Any documentation on the assessment of targeted species for wildlife connectivity strategy