



Pathways to private land conservation agreements

Types of private land conservation agreements

Conservation Agreements

Wildlife Refuges

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

What they are:

Conservation Agreements are voluntary agreements between the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) and landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on an area of land.

Wildlife Refuge Agreements are an entry-level option for landholders who wish to protect the biodiversity on their property but do not wish to enter into a permanent agreement.

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements are used for landholders wishing to generate and sell biodiversity credits under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. They provide permanent conservation and management of the biodiversity values on the land.

Benefits to the landholder:

The BCT will offer conservation agreements to landholders under the Conservation Management Program or the Conservation Partners Program.

Landholders who are eligible to participate in the Conservation Management Program will receive annual payments to support them in carrying out agreed conservation management actions on their land.

Landholders who are eligible to participate in the Conservation Partners Program will be able to apply for Conservation Partners Grants to assist them to manage their conservation agreement.

The BCT will offer wildlife refuge agreements under the Conservation Partners Program.

A wildlife refuge agreement is a voluntary arrangement between the BCT and the landholder to protect and manage biodiversity on an area of land.

This can be a good option for landholders who wish to explore options for becoming involved in biodiversity conservation.

If you are a landholder, company or council, you may be interested in entering into a biodiversity stewardship agreement to generate and sell biodiversity credits.

This is a voluntary agreement between the BCT and a landholder to permanently manage an area of land to improve its biodiversity values.

The resulting stewardship site generates biodiversity credits which represent the expected improvement in biodiversity that will result from the protection and management of the site. A landholder can sell the biodiversity credits to a developer, the BCT or other interested parties.

The landholder will receive annual payments in return for undertaking conservation management actions on the property and may earn a profit from selling the biodiversity credits.

Every landholder who enters into an agreement with the BCT will be supported by the BCT's Landholder Technical Support Package, which provides a range of assistance and support to landholders.

Key Features:

Agreements are long-term with agreed management plan.

Option to protect biodiversity on land without the need for a permanent agreement.

Receive annual payments for management of land under the agreement.

In priority areas, the landholder can receive annual payments.

Can apply for grants for specific management actions.

Generate biodiversity credits which can be sold or used when considering development.

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Conservation Tenders

- Conservation Tenders are used in priority investment areas.
- These areas are chosen where biodiversity is poorly represented in the NSW reserve system.
- The BCT hopes to stimulate interest in private land conservation in these areas.
- Refer to Conservation Tender Brochures for Priority Areas and FAQ for more information.

Fixed Rate Offers

- In the areas least protected in NSW, the BCT will offer a fixed conservation management payment (\$/ha/year) for landholders who are in priority investment areas 1 to 3 and have high conservation value land to enter a conservation agreement.

Conservation Partners Grants

- Agreement holders that do not receive annual conservation management payments are eligible to apply for grants.
- Grants are offered to assist in managing and conserving biodiversity on land.

- Grants can be of assistance to landholders to maintain the ecological values of their properties.
- For example, a landholder may need funding to manage a weed outbreak or to repair a fence to exclude neighbouring stock.

Landholders Support

- Technical advice, assistance and practical support will be available to help landholders implement management actions in agreements.
- Advice on plants, animals, weeds.
- Access to a network of other landholders.

- Regular newsletters and updates.
- Assistance with site monitoring.
- Receiving information about ongoing funds and offers.
- Field days, meetings and workshops.
- Education and capacity building.
- Linking with other natural resource management agencies or groups (e.g. Local Land Services, Landcare).

For more information on how these apply in your area and to talk through your options, call your Regional Coordinator.