

South West Slopes Conservation Tender

What is this program about?

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is calling for expressions of interest from landholders managing native vegetation within the Local Government Areas of Albury City, Bland (part), Coolamon, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Greater Hume, Hilltops (part), Lockhart, Junee, Temora and Wagga Wagga City. The BCT is investing in these areas through a conservation tender.

Through this tender, eligible landholders are given the opportunity to set their own price to protect and manage native vegetation on their land. Bids will be ranked on a good value for money basis. Successful bidders will receive annual, ongoing payments for implementing an agreed management plan.

Why are we doing this?

The South West Slopes is an extensive area of foothills and isolated ranges that comprise the lower inland slopes of the Great Dividing Range. A variety of vegetation communities occur in the region with box gum and White Cypress woodlands dominating the more fertile soils, and hills are dominated by woodlands of Red Stringybark and Mugga Ironbark. The region is the core distribution for a number of threatened plants including Woolly Ragwort and Crimson Spider Orchid, and important populations of declining woodland birds and mammals such as Squirrel Gliders.

This region has been highly cleared and much of the vegetation on the fertile soils is listed as threatened ecological communities. Much of the remnant vegetation is found on private land, which is why landholders can play a critical role in securing their future and the future of the biodiversity that relies on it.

How do I know if I am eligible?

To be eligible for this tender, the part of your land that you wish to have considered for conservation needs to:

- I be within the tender area shown on the map on this factsheet
- I have a minimum size of 20 hectares of native vegetation
- I the native vegetation must be in moderate to good condition (this will be determined by the BCT during the site assessment)

How do I participate?

You can apply to participate by sending a completed Expression of Interest form to the BCT via info@bct.nsw.gov.au or call the BCT on **1300 992 688**. The form can be found on the BCT website link.

Expressions of Interest must be received by **5pm Friday 9 November 2018**.

Expressing an interest in the program does not create a binding obligation to proceed with participating in the program.



Once the EOI period closes, EOIs will be prioritised for site assessment taking into consideration factors such as: size, landscape context, risk and priority landscapes with the highest-ranking sites offered a site visit. At the site visit, the BCT will confirm eligibility to participate in the tender and the values of your site will be quantified. BCT field staff and ecologists will work with you to identify the potential conservation area and agreement management actions. If you are not offered a site visit for this tender, the BCT will contact you about other options to help you manage the biodiversity on your property.

A separate EOI is required for land that is owned by different legal entities.

Who is the BCT?

The BCT protects and enhances biodiversity in NSW by promoting conservation management on private land. We encourage long-term conservation by supporting landholders in their efforts to manage and enhance biodiversity on their land. The BCT program provides a unique opportunity to secure an additional revenue stream to conserve and manage native vegetation and biodiversity on your land.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the BCT website: www.bct.nsw.org.au.
Call us on **1300 992 688**.

