

Conservation Tender

Central West Rivers

Do you want to earn annual payments for managing biodiversity on your land?

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is calling for expressions of interest from landholders in the Central West rivers region with native vegetation on their land.

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 best value for money basis. Successful bidders will receive annual, ongoing payments for implementing an agreed management plan under a conservation agreement which is registered on the property title.

Why the Central West Rivers area?

The BCT opens conservation tenders in high priority areas periodically throughout the year. The areas are selected for their important biodiversity and its potential looming threats.

This tender area has been highly cleared or modified and much of the vegetation on the fertile soils is listed as threatened ecological communities or a vegetation type that is over-cleared. These communities include Grassy Open Woodlands dominated by

coolabah and black box, bimble box and myall, grasslands of plains grass and Mitchell grass, and wetlands. Many threatened species are also found within the tender area, including woodland birds, Bush Stone Curlew, Blue-billed and Freckled Duck, Brolga, and Black-tailed Godwit.

The Central West Rivers conservation tender has been designed to protect these conservation assets by securing remnant native vegetation in moderate to good condition, within those landscapes that are not represented within, or are inadequately protected in, the protected area system.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

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

- ▮ be within the tender area shown on the map on this factsheet;
- ▮ have a minimum size of 30 hectares of native vegetation;
- ▮ have native vegetation that is in moderate to good condition (this will be determined by the BCT during the site assessment).

What is the process?

You can apply to participate by sending a completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form to the BCT via email to: info@bct.nsw.gov.au or via post to PO Box A290 Sydney South, NSW, 1232. The form will be available on the BCT website during the EOI period of **4th - 29th November**.

EOI forms must be received by 29th November 2019.

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 with site visits being offered to the highest-ranking sites.

At the site visit, the BCT will confirm eligibility to participate in the tender and the values of your site will be assessed.

BCT field staff and ecologists will work with you to identify the potential conservation area and agreement management actions in a draft conservation management plan.

Once this is complete, you will be invited to submit a tender or 'bid' which includes the conservation management plan and a schedule setting out the annual payments you wish to receive to implement the plan.

As part of your bid you can choose the term of the agreement which can be either in-perpetuity or for a fixed term (minimum of 15 years).

All bids are then ranked according to their value for money (based on a biodiversity value score for your site calculated by the BCT as well as the price of your bid). If a bid is successful, you will be invited to enter into a funded conservation agreement with the BCT.

Who is the BCT?

The BCT is a statutory organisation within the NSW Government that was established in 2017 to protect and enhance biodiversity in NSW. We do this by supporting, facilitating and encouraging landholders to conserve biodiversity on their land, for the long term.

The BCT provides a unique opportunity for private landholders to secure an additional revenue stream to conserve and manage the native biodiversity on their land.

How do I get more information?

Visit the BCT website or contact us using the details at the bottom of this page.



Central West Rivers Conservation Tender area map

To view an interactive map of the tender area, go to this link: bit.ly/CWRmap