

BCT Co-investment Partnerships

Minimum size for core areas and corridor proposals

This document sets out the minimum size requirements for co-investment partnership proposals for: protection and management of **core areas**; or protection and management or restoration of ecological connectivity within **state or regional biodiversity corridors**. The BCT may update these minimum size requirements at any time.

These requirements should be read in conjunction with the **Co-Investment Landholder and Investor Guide** which provides information about other requirements that must be met to be assessed.

Proposals for the protection of core areas

Landholders and co-investors who submit a proposal for the protection and management of **core areas** must demonstrate that the proposal will:

- protect very large areas of remnant vegetation (refer to Table 1), and
- protect example(s) of least protected ecosystems identified within the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy¹ that are subject to significant pressure or threat, and
- have vegetation in moderate to good condition (assessed by the BCT during site visit having regard to condition benchmarks)

Expressions of interest (EOIs) under this criterion must be accompanied by an **expert report** addressing the information outlined in the **Co-Investment Landholder and Investor Guide**.

EOIs that do not include the expert report will not be assessed under this criterion.

Table 1 Minimum size requirements for core areas

Vegetation Formation ²	Eastern Division patch size (ha)	Central Division patch size (ha)	Western Division patch size (ha)
Rainforests	100	90	
Wet sclerophyll forests	1,500	250	
Grassy woodlands	400	500	500
Dry sclerophyll forests	2,000	2,500	
Semi-arid woodlands		3,300	28,000
Heathlands	30	50	
Alpine complex		30	
Grasslands	1,500	1,600	800
Freshwater wetlands	100	500	1,500
Forested wetlands	80	350	450
Saline wetlands	30	1,500	1,400
Arid shrublands		1,500	19,000

Note 1: Where patches are a matrix of formations, the patch must meet the minimum size requirement for the largest minimum size of the formations included in the patch.

Note 2. Eastern Division means BCT regions: North Coast, Sydney Hunter, South East. Central Division means BCT regions: Northern Inland, Central West and Murray Riverina; Western Division includes all land within the Western Division.

¹ Least protected ecosystems include: threatened ecological communities, threatened species, over-cleared vegetation types, Saving our Species sites, wetlands, littoral rainforests, koala habitat, old-growth forests, rainforest, and high conservation value grassland

(refer Investment Principle 1 within the *Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy NSW 2018*)

² 2004 Keith, *Ocean Shores to Desert Dunes - The Native Vegetation of NSW and the ACT*, Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW).

Proposals for protection and management or restoration of ecological connectivity within state or regional biodiversity corridors

Landholders and co-investors who are submitting proposals for protection and management or restoration of ecological connectivity within **state or regional biodiversity corridors**, must demonstrate that the proposal will:

- protect and manage or restore very large area(s) (refer Table 2), and
- provide a link between: public protected areas; Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves (TSRs); public land that is managed for biodiversity conservation³; permanently protected privately land; NSW state forest land; or a combination of these, where:

- the patch size of each area to be linked meets minimum size identified for core areas (see Table 1 above), and
- the corridor will play a crucial role in maintaining connections between animal and plant populations that would otherwise be isolated and at greater risk of local extinction.

Expressions of interest (EOI) under this criterion must be accompanied by an **expert report** addressing information outlined in the **Co-Investment Landholder and Investor Guide**. Additional requirements for proposals that include **restoration** are also outlined in the Co-Investment Landholder and Investor Guide.

Table 2 Minimum size requirements for biodiversity corridor proposals

Vegetation Formation	Eastern Division patch size (ha)	Central Division patch size (ha)	Western Division patch size (ha)
Rainforests	50	45	
Wet sclerophyll forests	750	125	
Grassy woodlands	200	250	250
Dry sclerophyll forests	1000	1,250	
Semi-arid woodlands		1,650	14,000
Heathlands	15	25	
Alpine complex		15	
Grasslands	750	800	400
Freshwater wetlands	50	250	750
Forested wetlands	40	175	225
Saline wetlands	15	750	700
Arid shrublands		750	9,500

Note: Where proposals are a matrix of formations, the proposal must meet the minimum size requirement for the largest minimum size of the formations included in the proposal.

Proposals for protection and management or restoration of key areas for biodiversity

Landholders and co-investors who are submitting proposals for protection and management or restoration of **key areas for biodiversity** should refer to the **Co-Investment Landholder and Investor Guide** which outlines the requirements for submitting an EOI under this criterion.

³ Publicly owned and managed lands mean land owned and managed by state, federal and local government authorities, bodies, departments, statutory corporations, state – owned corporations and other similar entities, and for land owned by such entities