



**Matt Kean**  
Minister for Energy and Environment

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **WORKING WITH LANDHOLDERS TO PROTECT HABITAT FOR NATIVE SPECIES**

Nine successful bidders in the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's (BCT) Central West Rivers conservation tender will be invited to enter private land conservation agreements covering 3,900 hectares and protecting priority landscapes from woodlands to wetlands.

Environment Minister Matt Kean said the landholders have been successful in a tender process and will receive annual funding for managing an area for conservation on their property.

These landholders have agreed to protect the land under conservation for a minimum of 15 years or in some cases in-perpetuity, with the BCT investing \$10.5 million to support their ongoing annual payments.

"Through these tenders, we are rewarding the conservation work many landholders are opting to do to protect habitat for native and threatened species," said Mr Kean.

"The new area under conservation will protect a total of 3,900 hectares across this precious and diverse region.

"Three new tenders will open in the second half of 2020, aimed at conserving habitat for the endangered Plains-wanderer in the Murray-Riverina, native vegetation in the Northern Inland floodplains and critically endangered ecological communities in the Southern Tablelands.

"The Murray Riverina and South East tenders are focussed on protecting habitat for species and ecological communities facing a high risk of extinction, while the Northern Inland tender focuses on increasing areas dedicated to conservation in some of the least protected areas."

Farmers or graziers can agree to receive an additional source of income to manage part of their property for conservation while maintaining primary production on the remainder.

So far, 190 landholders have signed or plan to sign a conservation agreement with the BCT. These agreements cover more than 41,400 hectares, underpinned by a total investment from NSW Government that now exceeds \$112 million.

Visit [www.bct.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 992 688 to find out more about conservation tenders and BCT programs.

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