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## **Conservation funding opportunity for private landholders in three locations across NSW**

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) today announced the launch of three new conservation tenders during 2021 in the Lower Clarence Valley, the Paroo and Warrego Catchments, and the Snowy Monaro local government area.

The BCT Board's acting Chair Ms Virginia Malley is encouraging all eligible landholders to submit an expression of interest during the open tender period.

"The BCT's conservation tenders encourage and reward private landholders to participate in biodiversity conservation," said Ms Malley.

"Through these conservation tenders, landholders and the BCT will be protecting habitat important for threatened species and threatened ecological communities, and I encourage landholders who have these valuable conservation assets on their land to express interest in the tenders when they open," said Ms Malley.

"If successful, a landholder can receive annual payments from the BCT to manage parts of their properties for conservation."

A successful applicant in a recent BCT conservation tender is Paraway Pastoral Co., a large-scale grazing company. It recently signed two agreements with the BCT through the Central West Rivers conservation tender. Paraway's Environment and Sustainability Manager, Paul McDougal, is thrilled with the result.

"We're always looking at ways to be more sustainable, and to get the balance between production and conservation, and we saw this is a really good opportunity to conserve some native vegetation," said Mr McDougal.

"It makes you want to get up and go to work when you're protecting these areas, and you know you're contributing to agriculture being part of the solution," he said.

The Lower Clarence Valley conservation tender will focus on protecting threatened floodplain ecological communities, important wetlands, and native habitat for the endangered coastal emu population.

The Paroo and Warrego Catchments conservation tender aims to protect private land with important wetland habitat and floodplain ecosystems between significant rivers systems in Western NSW as well as Artesian Spring communities.

The Southern Snow Gum Woodlands and Grasslands conservation tender aims to conserve specific critically endangered ecological communities within the Snowy Monaro local government area.



Eligible landholders can express their interest in the tender process, and if successful, they enter a conservation agreement with the BCT which protects a chosen area of their property and allows them to earn annual management payments for the term of the agreement.

So far, 257 landholders have signed or plan to sign a conservation agreement with the BCT, creating conservation areas across 97,800 hectares. Landholders with funded agreements are typically being paid between \$5 and \$464 per hectare per annum to manage these conservation areas.

Key details and dates for each tender will be made available on the BCT website in the coming weeks.

Conservation tenders are one of several mechanisms through which landholders can partner with the BCT. To find out more about BCT programs, go to [www.bct.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bct.nsw.gov.au), or call 1300 992 688.

Watch a video about conservation tenders here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SApPZ12cZwo>