

Conservation tender

Snow Gum Woodlands and Grasslands

Do you want to earn annual payments for conserving rare vegetation in the Southern Tablelands?

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is calling for expressions of interest from landholders in the Snowy Monaro local government area who have snow gum woodland and/or native grassland on their property.

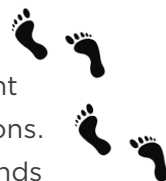
Through this tender, eligible landholders are given the opportunity to set their own price to protect and manage good condition examples of this important vegetation on their land. Eligible applicants will put forward the highest value habitat for the best price (their bid). If successful, bidders will receive annual payments for implementing an agreed management plan.

Why is the tender being offered in this area?

The BCT opens conservation tenders in high priority areas periodically throughout the year. Priority areas are selected for their important biodiversity value.

Snow gum woodlands and grasslands are being targeted for investment through this tender as they are recognised as critically endangered ecological communities. The tender area is known to support high quality patches of these communities. Snow gum woodlands and grasslands are poorly represented in our National Parks and other reserves, and are exposed to ongoing threats across much of their range.

Snow gum woodlands and grasslands mainly occur on private land, which is why landholders can play a critical role in securing the future for these vegetation communities and the species they support.



The tender area is also culturally important for Ngarigo people and surrounding Nations. Pathways that have been used for thousands of years extend through the tender area, and link freshwater people to the saltwater, and the beach to the mountains.

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 as a conservation area needs to:

- be within the tender area shown on the map on this factsheet;
- include a minimum of 20 hectares of snow gum woodland and/or grassland;
- have native vegetation that is in moderate to good condition (this will be determined by the BCT during site assessment).

Successful landholders will enter into a conservation agreement, which is registered on the title of the land.

How do I get more information?

You can learn more about this unique opportunity by contacting us using the details below or registering to attend one of our information sessions. Visit:

www.bct-snowgum-south.eventbrite.com.au

What is the process?

You can apply to participate in the conservation tender by emailing an expression of interest (EOI) form to info@bct.nsw.gov.au or calling us on **1300 992 688**. The form will be available on the BCT website from 20th September 2021.

EOI forms must be received by 8th October 2021.

Submitting an EOI comes with no obligation to proceed with participating in the tender.

Who is the BCT?

The BCT is a statutory body 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.

What are snow gum woodlands and native grasslands?

Natural grasslands were once widespread in temperate south-east Australia. These relatively treeless ecosystems are generally found in the lower parts of the landscape and are dominated by native grasses, such as kangaroo grass and snow grasses, and a variety of non-woody herbs and native wildflowers.

Snow Gum woodlands share similar ground cover species and often occur alongside grassland areas in broad valley floors, slopes and low rises.

While snow gums are the dominant eucalypt in these woodlands other tree species may also be present such as black sallee, ribbon gum, candlebark or blackwood.

Snow gum woodlands are characterized by a sparse layer of trees, but there are many situations where only the native ground layer of this vegetation community remains.

These grassy areas are still worthy of conservation if they are in good condition.

Snow gum woodlands and grasslands provide habitat for a range of plant and animal species that do not occur anywhere else.

While snow gums and native grasses can be present in a range of different circumstances, this tender is focused on the particular ecosystems that are described in detail via the following links:

- [Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland](#)
- [Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands](#)

The BCT will confirm the presence of these communities during the site assessment.

Cultural significance

A variety of grassland and grassy woodland plants are culturally significant to Aboriginal people and provided important food, medicinal and weaving/tool-making resources.

Looking after country that supports plants like grasses, lilies, orchids and other tuber-forming forbs not only supports biodiversity but enhances the cultural values in the landscape.



Yam daisies are an important cultural species to Aboriginal people and are harvested for their nutritious tuberous roots.



Tall Poa grassland with an adjacent snow gum patch.



Cultural species like yam daisies (top) and fringe lilies (above) now only persist in sites that are in good condition.

The ground cover in snow gum woodlands is mostly grassy with shrubs as only a minor component of the community.



Kangaroo grass commonly occurs in grasslands and snow gum woodlands that are in good condition.



Mature snow gum leaves are large, thick and shiny with young branchlets distinctively red in colour.

Snow Gum Woodlands and Grasslands conservation tender area map

This map displays the areas where snow gum woodlands and grasslands are more likely to occur (purple) within the conservation tender boundary (orange).

The tender area is predominantly on Ngarigo Country. The BCT acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout NSW and recognises their ongoing connection to land, waters and culture.

