



Matt Kean
Minister for Energy and Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

EDITORS NOTE: IMAGES AND MAPS [HERE](#)

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CRITICAL HABITAT ON PRIVATE LAND PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Over 50,000 hectares of important habitat for native species on private land will be protected as a result of three successful conservation tenders.

Environment Minister Matt Kean said the NSW Government will partner with 25 landholders across the State to help conserve some of the most important habitat providing a future for threatened and endangered native animal and plant species.

“This is a great result for nature and for landholder who will be incentivised to conserve these important and rare ecosystems,” Mr Kean said.

“Conserving habitat on private land, in partnership with landholders, is vital in our race to turn back the tide on extinctions.”

Landholders will typically be paid a per hectare per annum rate across the conservation area to manage important habitat on their land.

Chair of the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) Board, the Hon. Niall Blair said these three key areas are of the highest conservation values and support a number of threatened species.

“Entering into conservation agreements with the BCT provides another source of income to help landholders increase their resilience to drought and external shocks while benefiting the environment,” said Mr Blair.

Of the 25 successful landholders, ten are from the NSW Riverina where over 21,000 hectares of key Plains-wanderer grasslands habitat between Hay and Lockhart is located.

In the South Eastern Highlands, six landholders will protect 944 hectares of critically endangered Snow Gum Woodlands and Grasslands.

And, in the far north of the state, between Bogan and Walgett nine landholders will protect over 27,000 hectares of important ecological flood plain communities.

To find out more, visit www.bct.nsw.gov.au

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KEY FACTS

- Conservation tenders are one of several mechanisms through which landholders can partner with the BCT in private land conservation.
- Successful landholders presenting the best value for money bids enter a conservation agreement with the BCT and receive annual payments to manage the land for conservation.
- Landholders will typically be paid between \$13 and \$419 per hectare per annum across the conservation area to manage the important habitat on their land.
- Successful landholders will enter a minimum 15-year term or in-perpetuity conservation agreement and will receive annual conservation management payments for implementing an agreed management plan and conservation management actions.

ABOUT THE TENDERS

NSW RIVERINA – PLAINS WANDERER HABITAT

- The Plains-wanderer conservation tender is focused on securing 21,658 hectares of primary Plains-wanderer habitat of which is 5,141 hectares of primary habitat crucial to the survival of the species in NSW.
- The tender area includes primary Plains-wanderer habitat within the Hay, Carrathool, Edward River, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera and Federation Local Government Areas.

NORTHERN INLAND FLOODPLAINS

- Nine landholders invited to sign conservation agreements to protect 27,821 hectares of important ecological communities in the Northern Inland Floodplains situated between Bogan and Walgett all the way up to the QLD border.
- Focussed on floodplain vegetation such as River Red Gum forest, Coolibah and River Cooba woodland, Lignum swamps, natural grasslands and chenopod shrublands.
- Helping conserve threatened ecological communities such as Coolibah-Black Box woodland, Brigalow woodland, Weeping Myall woodland and Mitchell Grass grasslands.

SOUTH EASTERN HIGHLANDS - ENDANGERED SNOW GUM AND WOODLANDS

- Six landholders invited to sign conservation agreements to protect 944 hectares of critically endangered Snow Gum Woodlands and Grasslands in the South Eastern Highlands.
- The woodland communities are dominated by snow gum and candlebark, with minimal shrubs, and a continuous ground cover of grasses, non-woody herbs and native wildflowers when in good condition.
- tender focused on remnant patches of these critically endangered ecological communities in the Yass Valley, Goulburn Mulwaree, Queanbeyan Palerang and Upper Lachlan local government areas.