

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Investing in Private Land Conservation

NSW Biodiversity
Conservation Trust
Conservation Management
Program 2023-2027

May 2023



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Cover image: Colin Elphick
Animal tracks across the sandy soils and traditional lands of the Murrwarri people in northwest NSW.

Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of NSW and recognises their ongoing connection to land, waters, biodiversity, and culture.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future and commit to genuinely engage and partner with Aboriginal people in the delivery of our private land conservation programs.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is a statutory body established under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 to ‘protect and enhance biodiversity’. It does this through conservation agreements with private landholders.

Our vision

Vibrant private land conservation areas protecting the unique and diverse plants and animals of NSW.

We manage 2,270 conservation agreements with private landholders, responsible for protecting more than 2.2 million hectares, or 2.8 per cent of NSW.

More than 65 per cent of landowners hold in perpetuity agreements, assuring long-term protection of habitat and species.

The Conservation Management Program represents the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust’s priority investment targets. Since 2017, more than \$239 million has been invested in private land conservation (as at 31 March 2023).

Private land conservation protects:



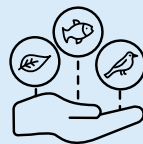
2m+
hectares of privately-held land



107
inadequately protected landscapes



10
landscapes not represented in the protected areas system



19
threatened ecological communities



127
threatened species



2.8%
of NSW’s total land area

*At 31 March, 2023

Image: Regenerative efforts under an early NSW Biodiversity Conservation Agreement, at the property Moona, in southern NSW, have helped restore important ecological habitat. Credit: Colin Elphick



Conservation Management Program

To protect the state's important biodiversity, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust funds private land conservation via the Conservation Management Program. The program offers landholders an opportunity to secure an additional revenue stream to protect, restore and manage native vegetation and biodiversity on their land.

Program objectives



Protect

- High impact conservation
- Conserving core areas of high quality vegetation and habitat for threatened species
- Contributing to the National Reserve System



Connect

- Connecting fragmented landscapes
- Building resilience to climate change



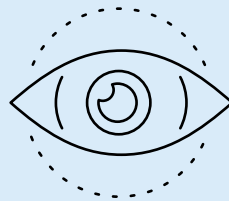
Restore

- Supporting active restoration to recover biodiversity
- Leveraging investment to reverse ecosystem degradation and support biodiverse carbon sequestration

Program targets and investment

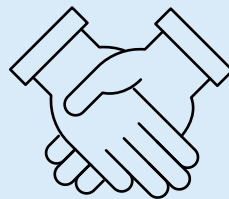
Investment in private land conservation is guided by the targets, priority investment areas and investment principles set out in the *Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018*.

These underpin the Conservation Management Program.



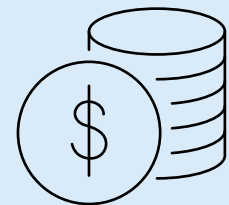
Science & Technology

- Harnessing scientific research, data and traditional ecological knowledge to support investment decisions
- Driving innovation in private land conservation



Partnerships

- Actively supporting Aboriginal communities and partners to increase participation
- Partnering with the private sector to increase our impact
- Collaborating with government and non-government delivery partners



Investment

- Investing in biodiversity to improve financial sustainability of landholders and regional communities
- Support access to natural capital and biodiversity markets

Program mechanisms

In line with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust invests in private land conservation through a variety of program mechanisms.

Conservation tenders

These reverse auctions target priority conservation assets identified by the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy as being subject to significant pressure or threat. They can also target NSW Government conservation commitments, such as those of the NSW Koala Strategy, or emerging impacts

Fixed price offers

This is a standing offer to landholders to enter into in-perpetuity conservation agreement with management payments at a fixed price, per hectare, per annum.

These offers target native vegetation in moderate to good condition within least protected subregions containing threatened ecological communities, habitat for threatened species or important wetlands.

Cultural Lands Pilot:

In the 2023-2024 financial year, a fixed price offer pilot will open to Aboriginal landowners. The pilot will consider the ownership structures and governance arrangements of Aboriginal community organisations to enable participation in the program.

Conservation co-investments

Co-investment projects deliver significant biodiversity conservation value for the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's share of investment. Co-investment arrangements realise conservation outcomes, at scale, to protect priority conservation assets identified within the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy.

Revolving Fund

This is an opportunistic purchase of properties with significant conservation values, with the goal of selling them onto buyers with an in-perpetuity conservation agreement in place.

Schedule of tenders and fixed price offers



Table 1: Predicted schedule of conservation tenders, fixed price offers and special projects 2023 to 2027

Region	2023-24	2024-25	Review	2025-26	2026-27
South East	Tender 22 Direct offer: grassy Threatened Ecological Communities			FPO9 CLFPO1	Tender 30 Wildlife pathways (connectivity corridors) FPO10
Sydney Hunter	Tender 21 Hunter Valley Woodlands			Tender 28 Central and Lower Hunter Valley and regent honeyeater FPO9 CLFPO1	FPO10
North Coast		Tender 25 Threatened Species		CLFPO1	
Murray Riverina	FPO7	FPO8		Tender 27 Mallee Woodlands: western Riverina FPO9	FPO10
Northern Inland	FPO7	Tender 24 Cracking Clays FPO8		FPO9	Tender 31 Coolabah Blackbox Woodlands: Moree Plains FPO10
Central West	Tender 23 Poplar Box Grassy Woodlands FPO7	FPO8		Tender 29 Threatened Ecological Communities and regent honeyeater FPO9	FPO10
Western	FPO7	FPO8		FPO9	FPO10 CLFPO2
Multi-region	Cultural Lands FPO Pilot within FPO boundary TBC	Tender 26 Box Gum Grassy Woodlands restoration (incl. carbon)		Special Project Box Gum Grassy Woodlands Cultural Lands FPO (Batch 1)	Tender 32 Threatened Ecological Communities and threatened woodland birds Special Project Box Gum Grassy Woodlands Cultural Lands FPO (Batch 2)

Further reading

To request a copy of *Investing in Private Land Conservation: NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Conservation Management Program 2023-2027* contact the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust by phone or email.

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Image: Conservation tenders engage eligible landholders in opportunities to attract the investment of the NSW Government and its partners in the protection and management of conservation priorities. Credit: Colin Elphick