



Credit: Colin Elphick

**Partnerships and
Investment**

Private land conservation

Our natural legacy

Combining local knowledge
and conservation science
for our state's most at risk
species and habitats

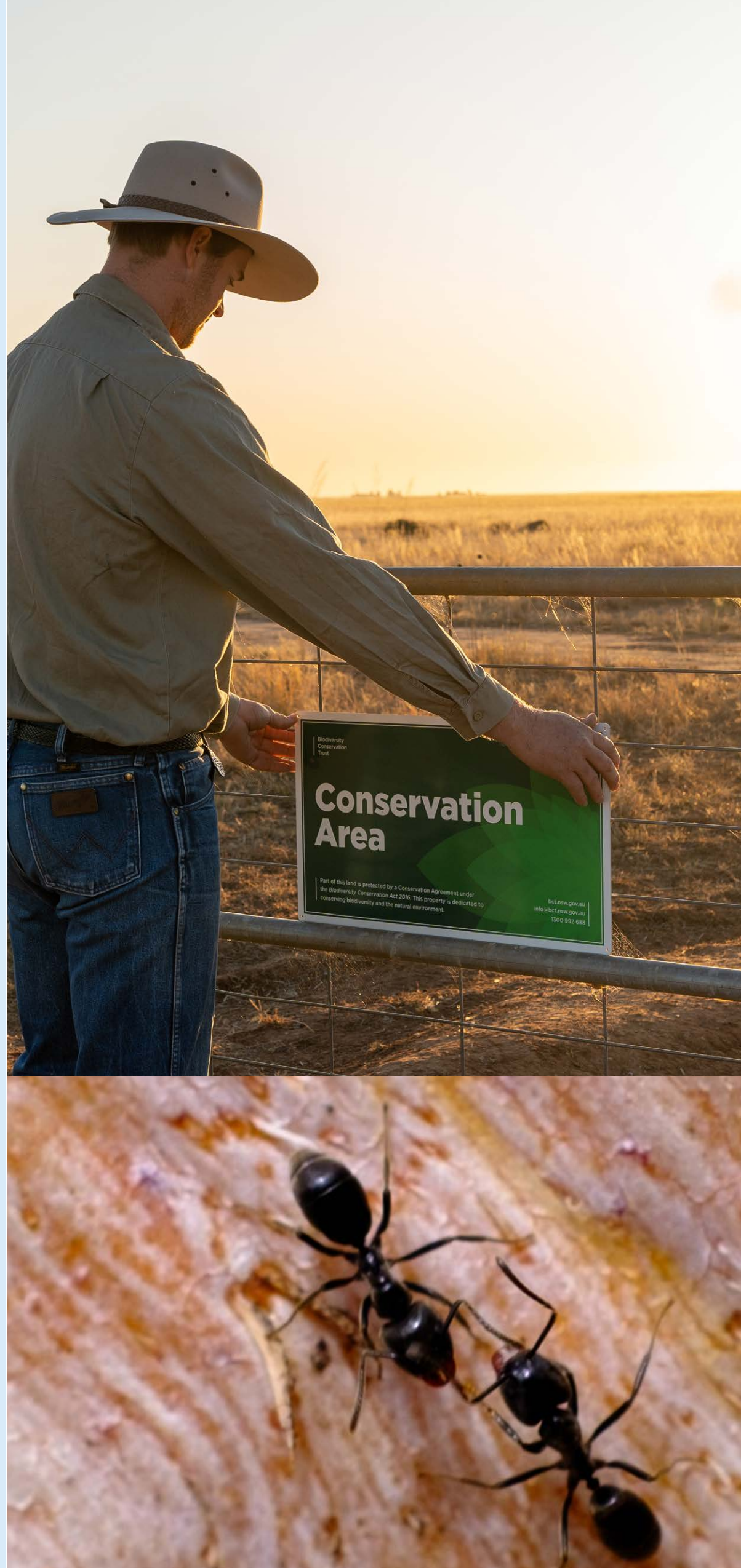
We need nature

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.

Image credit: Colin Elphick



The 2020 *NSW Biodiversity Outlook Report*¹ and 2021 *NSW State of the Environment report*² highlight the continuing decline of biodiversity in NSW, echoing national and global trends.

Research findings estimate 54 per cent of the state's original forests and woodlands³ have been destroyed and nearly 1000 NSW native plants and animals are at risk of extinction⁴.

Alongside climate impacts and the policy imperatives to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net zero, there is also a growing awareness of the impact

biodiversity loss will have on our economy, and our collective and personal health.

We all have a dependence on nature. About half our national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has a moderate to very high dependence on nature⁵ and include the industries we rely on for our food production, construction, waste, and water services.

Biodiversity loss is recognised as having a significant bearing on our lives. Our health, food diversity and security and our dependence on healthy water systems⁶ are at risk.

1 www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/biodiversity-outlook-report

2 www.soe.epa.nsw.gov.au

3 www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.02.22.529603v1.abstract

4 www.nsw.gov.au/environment-land-and-water/plants-and-animals/threatened-species

5 www.mja.com.au/journal/2023/218/8/why-losing-australias-biodiversity-matters-human-health-insights-latest-state

6 www.mja.com.au/journal/2023/218/8/why-losing-australias-biodiversity-matters-human-health-insights-latest-state

Our chance to combat biodiversity loss



Private land conservation, at scale, can accelerate our response to biodiversity loss and build resilience to climate change

More than 70 per cent of the state's land is under private ownership,

with privately-owned land and local conservation efforts representing the greatest opportunity to protect important habitats and species.

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is realising that opportunity,

and exceeding our 2024-2025 plan⁷ to protect 200,000 hectares of new conservation areas and 50 unique under-represented NSW landscapes.

We want to go further. To drive the necessary growth in private land

conservation, collaboration between government and non-government organisation, business, industry and philanthropists is needed to design and deliver new innovation, leverage new finance models, and invest in existing, accessible solutions.

⁷ www.bct.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/BCT_Business%20plan_spread%20%281%29.pdf

Image credit: Colin Elphick



Our investment approach

We are seeking to scale and accelerate private land conservation as a response to biodiversity loss.

Global and national commitments have been made under the Convention on Biological Diversity to protect 30 per cent of landscapes globally, by 2030.

We believe our strong funds and investment management track record in delivering conservation programs with proven finance mechanisms, our landholder networks and our regional presence are key to contributing to biodiversity outcomes.

The opportunity, with us, is three-fold.

 <p>Contribute to 30x30 targets by protecting, connecting, and restoring areas of remnant vegetation to build resilience to climate change</p>	 <p>Support and collaborate with Aboriginal communities to enable caring for Country</p>	 <p>Maximise the impact of our programs to deliver outcomes for threatened species</p>
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With new partners and investment, we can scale existing projects and explore new projects.

 <p>Scale conservation co-investments</p>	 <p>Enhance our Cultural Biodiversity Conservation offering</p>	 <p>Innovative and pool investment in our Revolving Fund</p>
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Credit: Tiffany Mason

Our conservation experience



Leaders in private land conservation

- Delivers permanent protection of land with covenants on title
- In-perpetuity, inflation-indexed annual payments to landholders to support conservation management actions
- Contributes to National Reserve System of protected landscapes and global biodiversity 30x30 targets
- NSW Government investment of \$200m over four years

High-integrity investment

- Accounting for Nature accredited
- Clear investment priorities
- Commonwealth-approved covenant program
- Ecological monitoring reports on outcomes
- Strong governance and probity
- Statutory trust with strong governance and probity
- Board responsible for overseeing high-integrity investment of an accumulating endowment fund

Local knowledge and support

- A network of landholders actively managing their properties to leave a legacy of conservation gains
- Local staff who know and live in regions
- Ecological expertise
- On-ground education for conservation land management, monitoring and research

Our partnership principles



We measure and test new opportunities against seven principles:

1. Shared interest and public value

The opportunity will help achieve the goals of all collaborators and:

- align to NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust core business;
- deliver on one or more of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's partnership priorities; and,
- align to Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy objectives and investment principles.

2. Maintain integrity of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust brand

To maintain the high level of trust and integrity the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust has cultivated with landholders and existing partners, opportunities will be screened using

due diligence checks and against likely risk prior to establishing any arrangement or agreement.

3. Capacity

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust will ensure proposals can be resourced by the agency. Any additional project delivery or administrative costs will be considered to ensure no risk to existing conservation outcomes.

4. Co-design

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust values co-design and it will be a central feature in the development of new opportunities. Co-design enables partners to share knowledge and expertise, build trusted relationships, and strive for innovation to maximise impact.

5. Sharing of risk

All parties share risk and have an incentive to engage. All proposed partners will be required to demonstrate risk mitigation and management arrangements. The level of risk sharing should be fit-for-purpose and take account of the total risks associated with the partnership and the nature of the partner involved.

6. Self-determination

Partnerships with Aboriginal landholders will ensure indigenous-led solutions and decision-making are central to co-design and delivery.

7. Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust recognises the rights of Aboriginal partners to manage and control their Cultural and Intellectual Property.

Contact our Partnerships and Investment representatives:

We are keen to explore your ideas and welcome your contact.

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