

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

# Understory

Issue 10 | Summer 2023

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of NSW and recognise their ongoing connection to land, waters, biodiversity, and culture.

Aboriginal cultural values are connected to Country and are found in waterways, mountains, wetlands, floodplains, hills, sandhills, rock outcrops and within the biodiversity of these geological features.

These cultural values are often present on privately-owned land and are associated with ongoing cultural practices and learning.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future and commit to genuinely collaborate and partner with Aboriginal people in private land conservation.

## COVER

Barbara Evison, of *Beaureden*, near Moonah in the Snowy Mountains is protecting snow gum woodlands and native grasslands through a funded conservation agreement. Read the Evison's story from **Page 5**. Credit: Colin Elphick



Newly hatched emu chicks  
(*Dromaius novaehollandiae*)  
Credit: John Spencer/DPE

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NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust  
CEO Dr Erin Giuliani

# Message from the Chief Executive

## Welcome to our Summer edition of *Understory*.

Our new plan to **invest in private land conservation** over the next four years has been announced by the NSW Government. The plan includes an indicative schedule of tenders and fixed price offers that target priority conservation assets. Our goal is to add another 200,000 hectares of private land to our conservation network.

In exciting news for conservationists, our Education Team launched our **online learning course** which offers an opportunity to gain accreditation toward further studies in conservation land management, at no cost. The course is entirely online through Tocal College, and is self-paced, making it available to anyone, at any time.

We also announced a **new \$1.4million Private Land Conservation Matters** program to be delivered by Landcare NSW over the next 18 months. The program will support landholders to learn, carry out and extend the use of best practice in private land conservation. This program will help deliver on the NSW Government's goal to reverse the decline in biodiversity identified in the 2021 State of the Environment Report.

Since our last edition, we made an appearance at the Senate Inquiry into the **Federal Nature Repair Market Bill 2023**, and the NSW Government tabled the statutory **five-year review into the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)**. The Review Panel, led by Dr Ken Henry AC, made 58 recommendations, and was strong in its call to prioritise biodiversity conservation. The NSW Government will consider the review and develop a whole of government response.

In recent months, we've had the pleasure of meeting with landholders and sector partners at both the NSW Farmers Conference and ALCA Unite for Nature Conference. I always come away from these events inspired by the stories shared. There's plenty of good work happening among our network of private land conservation advocates.

Our board also visited Gayini Nimmie Caira – the 55,220-hectare site the Nari Nari Tribal Council entered into a conservation agreement under a co-investment partnership with The Nature Conservancy and us. It's looking fantastic and we're excited to be doing our first site values report this summer.

On other agreements, the recommendations for our Restoring Murray Woodlands Biodiversity and Carbon and Darling Baaka conservation tenders will go to our Board in December and the expressions of interest in the Upper Hunter conservation tender have closed. A heartfelt thank you to all those landholders who expressed interest in these tenders and have worked alongside us to plan their conservation management.

Dr Erin Giuliani  
NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

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## Our leadership

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust was established under Part 10 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Under the Act, the affairs of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust are managed by a Board and led by a Chief Executive Officer and executive leadership team.

For more about our Board and executive leadership team, visit [bct.nsw.gov.au/leadership](https://bct.nsw.gov.au/leadership)

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## OUR BOARD

**The Hon. Niall Blair**  
*Board Chair*

**Christine Covington**  
*Board Deputy Chair*

**Prof David Freudenberger**  
*Planning and Delivery  
Committee Chair*

**John Pierce AO**  
*Public Fund Management  
Committee Chair*

**Dr Jane Weatherley**

**Káren Zirkler**

**John Maher**

**Tim King**

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## OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Mick O'Flynn**  
*Director Programs*

**Alan Goodwin**  
*Director Regional Delivery*

**Emily McCosker**  
*Director Strategy and Finance*

**Kate Smillie and Holly Park**  
*Co-directors Partnerships and  
Investment*

For more about our Board and executive team, visit [bct.nsw.gov.au/who-we-are](https://bct.nsw.gov.au/who-we-are)

# Progress report

## OUR CONSERVATION RESULTS\*

With landholders, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust manages:



**2,327**  
agreements for private land conservation



**2.3m**  
hectares of privately-held land



**2.8%**  
of NSW's total land area

Our conservation efforts have protected:



**201**  
threatened species



**9**  
landscapes not represented in the protected areas system



**109**  
inadequately protected landscapes

NSW Government has invested:



**\$200m**  
over four years to support private land conservation



**\$248m**  
in assets are held in trust to support agreement-holders with private land conservation



**\$5.82m**  
in grant payments to help landholders deliver good conservation outcomes

## OUR CONSERVATION TARGETS\*

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust was established in 2017, under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Since that time, our targeted private land conservation efforts have been delivered by three key programs:

1. Conservation Management Program
2. Conservation Partners Program
3. Biodiversity Offsets Program

### Conservation Management Program

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Conservation Management Program encourages and supports private landholders to protect our state's most at risk species and habitats. Since 2017, paid conservation management opportunities have resulted in:



**172**  
funded conservation agreements



**123**  
in-perpetuity agreements



**180,010**  
hectares protected



**\$10.6m**  
in conservation management payments over the past year

## Conservation Partners Program

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Conservation Partners Program supports landholders working voluntarily to protect and manage biodiversity and native vegetation on their land.

These landholders own land across the state and can apply for grants to support conservation management actions on their properties.



## Biodiversity Offsets Program

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust assists landholders with Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements, offering conservation management advice and plans, as well as payments to action those plans.



## OUR CONSERVATION ENABLERS\*

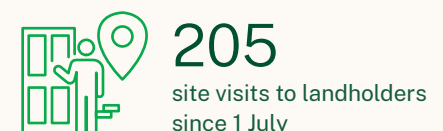
The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's network of private landholders share knowledge and frequent local events to progress a commitment to protect our natural environment.

Two programs help them connect and learn:

1. Landholder Support Program
2. Education Program

### Landholder support program

Landholders are at the heart of all NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's efforts to protect and conserve our state's biodiversity. Our network of regional staff is there to support landholders in managing their agreement sites for good conservation outcomes.



### Education program

Educating our landholders, communities and future conservationists drives the consistency, efficacy, and legacy of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's conservation efforts.

The Conservation Champions program and collaboration with Landcare NSW are just some of the ways we reach and educate rural and regional communities with the benefits of private land conservation.



All reporting at 30 September 2023

# Our news



Conservation agreement-holder and grazier Malcolm Coleman, right, of *Fernleigh*, has expanded his conservation network through the long-standing collaboration of Landcare NSW and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Credit: Suzannah Cowley

## Collaboration announcement celebrates landholder network

### A \$1.4 million funding injection recognises the shared interests of Landcare NSW and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is proud to be working with Landcare NSW to deliver private land conservation outcomes for NSW.

A new \$1.4 million program will be delivered by Landcare NSW and support landholders to learn, carry out and extend the use of best practice in private land conservation.

The Private Land Conservation Matters program was announced during the *The Daily Telegraph* Bush Summit, at Tamworth, on 11 August by Environment Minister Penny Sharpe.

“More than 70 per cent of NSW is privately owned,” Minister Sharpe said. “So, one of the most meaningful things the NSW Government can do to protect our environment is support private landholders.

“Working with Landcare NSW will help us to do exactly that,” she said.

Education Program team leader Alice McGrath said Landcare NSW’s proven track record in community engagement and capacity building was highly valued by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and a significant value-add to the program.

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*“By combining our resources and working together, we can achieve better outcomes for the people of NSW, and for the environment,”*  
Ms McGrath said.

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Landcare NSW CEO Turlough Guerin agreed, saying the opportunity would support landholders to restore the environment on their properties.

“Private landholders are the key to turning around biodiversity loss in NSW,” Mr Guerin said. “Landcare NSW can make a significant contribution to reversing the decline.”

The Private Land Conservation Matters program will deliver education and networking events for landholders on the properties of NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust agreement-holders.

To learn about events near you, visit [bct.nsw.gov.au/events](https://bct.nsw.gov.au/events)



Watch agreement-holder Malcolm Coleman talk about his conservation journey.

## Free study in conservation management

Landholders can access a series of free online learning modules to empower and build confidence in conservation management on their land.

The content provides tailored information to help implement biodiversity conservation management across all land types in NSW, and beyond.

“Our online training is a one-of-a-kind resource that will help private landholders protect native habitat,” Senior Ecologist Joel Stibbard said.

“It provides best practice guidance across conservation grazing, vegetation restoration, hydrology, pests, weeds and fire management.”

Participants will obtain a certificate of completion which counts towards a Certificate III, Certificate IV or Diploma in Conservation and Land Management.

The online-only course is delivered through **Tocal College**, a registered training organisation for land management, with content developed for landholders by NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust ecologists.

“The online delivery means landholders can work through the modules at their own pace, and when it suits them,” Tocal College’s Manager, Education Delivery, Julie White said.

Visit [bct.nsw.gov.au/elearning](https://bct.nsw.gov.au/elearning) to learn more and register.

Study conservation management skills online with a new course developed by our ecologists for landholders. Credit: Colin Elphick





*Beaureden* property owners Barbara and Thomas Evison (right) talk over conservation management plans for their property with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Adam Hook and Hannah Windley. Credit: Colin Elphick

## Tender funding saves Snowy Monaro's snow gums for future generations

When intrepid couple Thomas and Barbara Evison settled in the Snowy Mountains, they turned their attention to expanding the snow gum population across more than 60 hectares of their property. *Story by Lynne Hughes.*

Thomas and Barbara Evison have travelled the world, but always knew they would return to Australia to settle in the Snowy Monaro region of NSW.

Their search for land with the potential for biodiversity conservation and habitat protection led them to *Beaureden*, a property near the tiny Snowy Mountains town of Moonbah.

In 2021 they submitted an expression of interest in the

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Snow Gum Woodlands and Grasslands conservation tender and were one of eight families in the region to successfully bid for a conservation agreement.

"We wanted to ensure there would be funding for the protection of what's here once our children, or somebody else owned the property, so the conservation management could continue," Barbara said.

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*"The whole point of the tender money is to assist us in the management of the conservation site so no matter what else is happening, that funding is just going to keep coming." ►*

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# Cover story



Protection of almost 66 hectares of land on their property has secured habitat for threatened species including the austral toadflax (a vulnerable native herb), koalas, glossy black cockatoos, hooded robins and speckled warblers.

Many trees mature enough to develop hollows as nesting habitat for threatened tree-dwelling species are also protected, and the signs for future tree growth are good.

“There’s a lot more snow gums since we started our conservation management,” Thomas said.

“Many more are germinating and growing along the drainage lines. The whole health of the property has changed enormously.”

Barbara said that with every year they’ve been on the property, they see or find a new species they’ve not seen before.

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**“Of course, when you protect a plant community, you protect everything in it – the animals, plants, fungi, everything,” Mrs Evison said.**

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NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Senior Landholder Support Officer Adam Hook said as well as snow gum woodland, *Beaureden* also has areas of critically endangered natural temperate grassland.

“Originally both ecological communities were widespread in this region of the Snowy Monaro,” he said.

“The good areas that are left are most often found on private property and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is keen to help landholders protect these ecological communities because they are not well represented throughout our National Parks or our NSW reserve system.”

In total, eight new conservation agreements in the state’s south-east will permanently protect 4200 hectares of priority snow gum woodlands and native grasslands.

The conservation agreements cover an area culturally important to the Ngarigo people and Traditional Custodians of the surrounding Nations.

**Top:** Thomas Evison has seen many new snow gum saplings emerge on his Snowy Mountains property since managing it to protect the native vegetation. Credit: Colin Elphick







Top: Natural temperate grasslands are protected under the Evison's agreement. These ecological communities were once widespread in the region but are now critically endangered. Credit: Colin Elphick



Top: The snow gum woodlands at *Beaureden* will be protected with a conservation management plan set by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust and the Evisons. Credit: Colin Elphick

Left: Barbara and Thomas Evison are funded year-on-year to manage conservation efforts on their property under agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Credit: Colin Elphick



Watch Snowy Monaro couple Thomas and Barbara share why they sought to protect their property.

## New agreements fund conservation plans

New conservation agreements between the NSW Government and landholders like Thomas and Barbara will permanently protect 4200 hectares of priority snow gum woodlands and native grasslands in the state's south-east.

The ecosystems are recognised as critically endangered and are poorly represented in our national parks and other reserves. They mainly occur on private land, meaning landholders play a critical role in securing the future for these vegetation communities and the species they support.

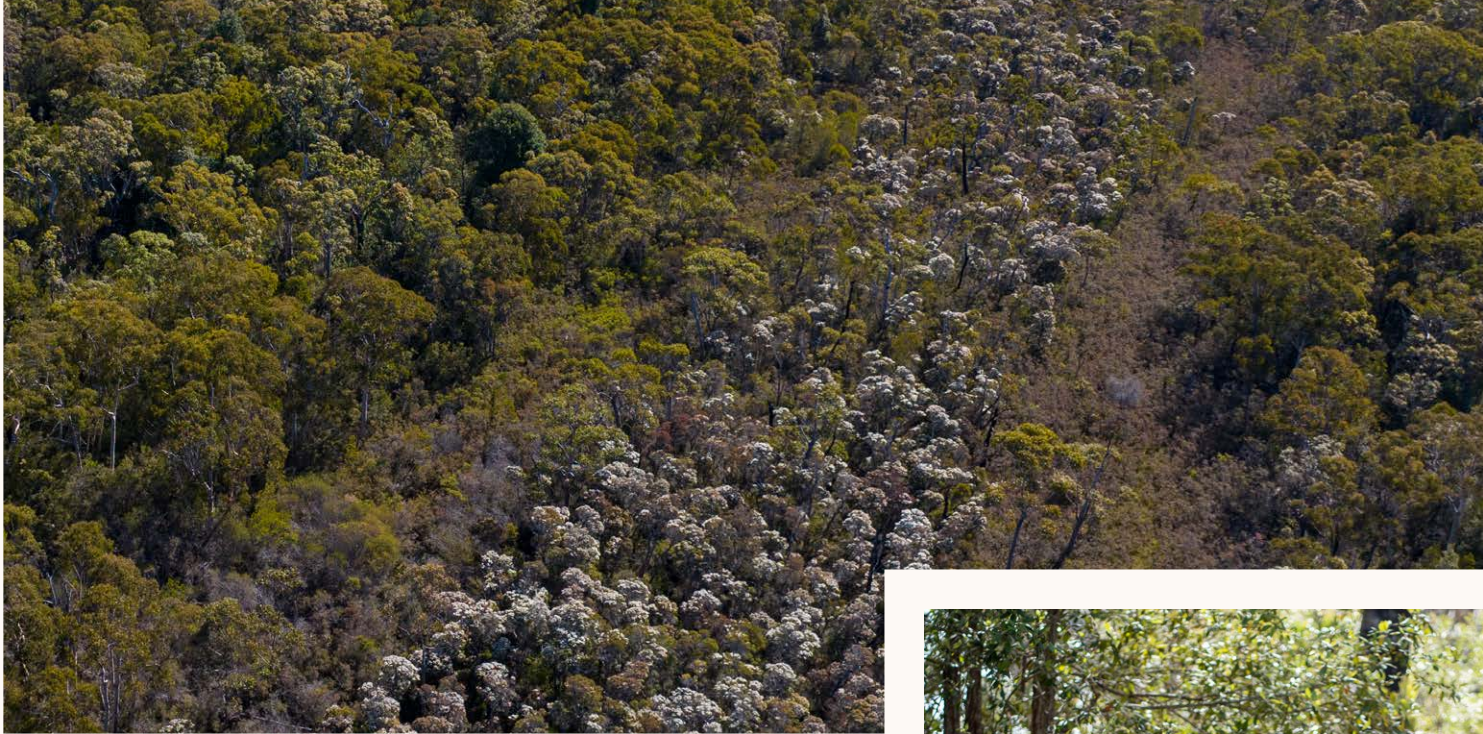
Over three tenders, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust invited bids from landholders interested in protecting the important habitats, prevalent across the Snowy Monaro LGA.

The new conservation agreement sites have secured habitat for threatened species including the austral toadflax, koala, glossy black cockatoo, hooded robin and speckled warbler.

Significantly, several sites also include large numbers of trees mature enough to develop hollows as nesting habitat for tree-dwelling species.

“Natural tree hollows can take decades to form and provide critical nesting habitat for threatened species,” NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Senior Landholder Support Adam Hook said.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust conservation agreements can be in-perpetuity, or for a fixed term. This tender secured six in-perpetuity agreements and two termed agreements.



Above: The conservation site on the Sussex Inlet property is a refuge from encroaching urban development and was saved from the 2019-2020 fires. Credit: Colin Elphick

Right: The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's James Lidsey, Adam Hook and Jodie Cooper chat to landowner Max Dingle on his South Coast conservation agreement site. Credit: Colin Elphick

## Artist retreat is home to a bush metropolis

A South Coast conservation agreement, along with the flora and fauna protected by it, is Max Dingle's ultimate artistic gift. *Story by Kate Moore.*

For a man who found the city not to his liking, Sussex Inlet landholder Max Dingle, sees high-rise apartment living all around him.

The centuries-old bloodwoods on his 40-hectare conservation agreement site are, according to Max, "vertical apartment blocks", with several respectable residents, including glossy black cockatoos, and gliders.

It's a 'neighbourhood' Max bought into more than 40 years ago after searching for a place to lose himself in and focus on his art practice.

"I was working with welded steel and grinding metal and needed a place where I could make noise and this suited me to have a welding workshop and painting studio and to be in the bush," Max said.

Across the property, Max's metalwork sculptures emerge from the native vegetation, sitting within the beauty of the natural landscape, a beauty that originally attracted him to the site and is now protected under an in-perpetuity conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Since entering into his conservation agreement last year, Max has expanded his knowledge of the native fauna and flora on the property through the field work conducted by NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust officers.

"I knew there were animals here that are endangered, but I didn't realise there were possibly Pygmy Eastern possums here and that sort of gives me a thrill,"

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***"There are animals here that are worth looking after,"*** he said.

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The conservation site is particularly important to Max and the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust due to encroaching urban development and its lucky escape from the 2019-2020 bushfires.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust ecologist James Lidsey said Max's property was burnt in a 2001 bushfire, but escaped the Black Summer fires, which came within 500m of the conservation agreement site.



"Having a conservation agreement on here is really good due to the fact it's lucky to have avoided the fires, but also in terms of the broader landscape and residential activity," James said, adding that even mid-last year, while reporting on the site's biodiversity, there was evidence of animals that had sought refuge from the 2020 fires.

Orchids are one species James said he was pleased to see protected on the site.

"There are two species around here, the *Cryptostylis erecta* (bonnet orchid) and *Cryptostylis subulata* (large tongue orchid), and they're in flower, which is good to see. They're not too common in the wider state, so it's been really nice to see those species bouncing back.

"And then there are other things that are on this site, like bloodwoods (*Corymbia gummifera*) and we've got yellow bellied gliders in this area which feed on these bloodwoods and pygmy possums that spend a lot of time in the banksias and feed on those.



“And then, because it’s a sandy soil and so close to the coast, we have bandicoots, and a wide array of mammal species that love the dense vegetation cover.

“It’s pretty amazing the diversity of animals that live in this area,” he said.

For Max, naming the species he lives among is a bonus to protecting the bush site he loves.

His conservation agreement is registered on the property’s title and with it being an in-perpetuity agreement, it remains for future owners and generations.

“I’ve watched trees grow from tiny saplings, and now they’re teenagers, I suppose. They’ve still got a long way to go. But yeah, I love it. I love the place. I’m happy as I can be in terms of the protection it’ll provide,” he said.

Above: James Lidsey and Jodie Cooper identify orchid species, including this large tongue orchid (*Cryptostylis subulata*). Credit: Colin Elphick



Watch Max talk about his plans for the Sussex Inlet conservation site.

## Prepare for hot and dry season

With the Australian Bureau of Meteorology declaring an El Nino weather event, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is encouraging agreement holders to prepare for the bushfire season.

### BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the lead agency for bushfire preparedness and response in NSW. It provides valuable resources and guidance on preparing your farm for the bushfire seasons at [rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)

### BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

If your property is affected by a bushfire, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services offer fire recovery information and support services for rural landholders.

Seek support and guidance at:

- NSW Department of Primary Industries, [dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies](https://dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies)
- Local Land Services, [lls.nsw.gov.au](https://lls.nsw.gov.au) under the Help and Advice tab

### CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AND BUSHFIRES

If your conservation area is impacted by bushfire, please make use of the conservation management guidance below to assist recovery efforts.

Visit [bct.nsw.gov.au](https://bct.nsw.gov.au) and find helpful guidance under our Resources tab.



## Seed bank revived at former sand mine

Ecological burns have revived the seed bank and restored native vegetation to a former sand mining site at Lake Macquarie. *Story by Lynne Hughes.*

Restoring native bushland to its pre-disturbance state is complicated. When that disturbance comes after decades of mining on threatened wetland and bushland, it's fair to say environmental restoration requires a little extra planning.

Since 2013 Lake Macquarie Council has been actively working to regenerate a 41-hectare site at Jewells after sand mining operations closed in the late 1970s.

The success of its efforts, possible under a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, has restored 27 species, 10 not present before regeneration efforts.

Lake Macquarie Council signed a BioBanking agreement for Fencott Drive Wetland Reserve and later transferred it to a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, after the sand mine site was identified as a green corridor of strategic conservation value.

The council's Senior Natural Assets Officer Dominic Edmonds said past sand mining and attempts to revegetate the site left it dominated by tea trees and invasive weeds, but that conservation management efforts had delivered impressive results. Ecological burns have stimulated the soil seed bank and reinvigorated native vegetation.

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***“We thought there was enough diversity present above ground to indicate there was a good soil seed bank.”***

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“To stimulate that soil seed bank, we did a moderate intensity burn so we could get the heat down into quite a disturbed sandy soil profile,” Dominic said.

Dominic said there were areas of swamp sclerophyll forest, riparian zones, and spots where threatened species required fire exclusion.



Left: Lake Macquarie Council Senior Natural Assets Officer Dominic Edmonds and NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Senior Ecologist Mike Lawrie walk through vegetation regrowth following an ecological burn in autumn. Credit: Lynne Hughes  
 Below: NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Senior Ecologist Mike Lawrie and Lake Macquarie Council Senior Natural Assets Officer Dominic Edmonds look over the successful vegetation regrowth following an ecological burn in autumn. Credit: Lynne Hughes



Above: Among the species that been seen on the former sand mining site at Lake Macquarie is a Red Helmet Orchid (*Corybas dowlingii*). Credit: Lynne Hughes

“It was all taken into consideration and thankfully it was really successful,” he said.

Ongoing monitoring takes place every three months, with rich data coming from three quadrats within the burn area as well as 15 photo monitoring points across the site. That data shows a 69 per cent increase in species richness post-fire.

“We have recorded 27 new species within the monitoring quadrats that weren’t present before the fire,” he said.

“Also 10 species have been recorded post-fire that weren’t previously recorded in the area at all. So that’s really exciting results.”

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Senior Ecologist Mike Lawrie said the agreement site partially sits on Swamp Sclerophyll Forest and Sydney Freshwater Wetlands ecological communities, both of which are listed as endangered under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act.

“Works undertaken by Lake Macquarie Council has seen some great results for biodiversity improvement and we look forward to helping with its continued management and restoration through sustained, long-term bush regeneration and fire management.”

# Protect koalas on your property

## Contribute to the survival of koalas with a conservation agreement

Right: Conservation agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust help secure koala habitat for the long-term. Credit: Colin Elphick

Koala populations across NSW are in trouble. Without action, they risk extinction in the wild by 2050.

Private landholders can protect koala habitat and contribute to the survival of koala populations across NSW by entering into a conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

Koalas are listed as an endangered species in NSW and are in decline due to a loss of habitat, climate change and natural disasters and disease.

The 2019–2020 bushfires resulted in a sudden and significant loss of remaining populations and habitat. At least 5000 koalas are estimated to have died during the fires.

Koalas are also vulnerable to injury and death when crossing roads, and through dog attack.

If you, or your neighbours property is home to koalas, or you have koala habitat on your property, you can permanently protect it under a conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

With your koala habitat protected by a conservation agreement, you can:

- access conservation management advice from our ecologists.
- join a state-wide network of private land conservationists.
- participate in citizen science programs.
- apply for grants of up to \$45,000 to use over three years.

You may also be eligible for council rate and land tax relief.

To learn more about eligibility visit [bct.nsw.gov.au/koalas](http://bct.nsw.gov.au/koalas), and share this opportunity with your conservation and environment networks.

Alternatively, phone us on **1300 992 688** and ask for more information.



## Conservation partnership formed to protect Northern Rivers koalas

Landholders on the NSW North Coast will play a critical role in conserving critical koala habitat under a new partnership of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and NSW Koala Strategy.

The partnership will fund the conservation efforts of private property owners, such as Tony Rowland, of Kyogle, who has an in-perpetuity conservation agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust on 20 hectares of his land on Bundjalung Country, near Lismore.

Through the partnership, Tony will be able to access grant payments to manage his property for biodiversity, carrying out activities such as weed and pest animal control, fencing and building nest boxes.

Tony will be joined by a further nine landholders over coming months, who will be supported by NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust ecologists and field

staff to permanently conserve their koala habitat.

Over the coming three years, the partnerships aims to protect 500 hectares of koala habitat in the Northern Rivers region of NSW, and more landholders with eligible koala habitat are sought to enter conservation agreements and access the funding and support of the program.

Landholders with high quality koala habitat in the Northern Rivers local government areas of Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Clarence Valley are invited to have their properties assessed.

**Watch landholder Tony Rowland speak to media about his koala agreement.**



# Conservation tenders

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's conservation tenders align to the NSW Government's Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy.

## New tenders

In 2024, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's two tenders targeting species or ecological communities at risk will fall in the Central West and North Inland areas of NSW.

### POPULAR BOX GRASSY WOODLANDS

**Timeline:**

Expressions of interest forecast for 2024.

### CRACKING CLAYS

**Timeline:**

Expressions of interest forecast for 2024.

**For more information:**

To register early interest, email [info@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@bct.nsw.gov.au).

## Tender milestones

### RESTORING MURRAY WOODLANDS BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON

**Status:**

The tender evaluation panel met, and recommendations to proceed with agreements are being taken to the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board.

**Protected:**

Priority threatened woodland ecosystem including Inland Grey Box Woodland, Sandhill Pine Woodland, Buloke Woodland or White Box-Yellow Box-Blakley's Red Gum Grassy Woodland.

**On the traditional lands of:**

Wiradjuri, Wamba Wamba, Baraba Baraba and Yorta Yorta people.

**In collaboration with:**

Murray Local Land Services, Murray LLS Native Seed Services, Clean Energy Regulator, Telstra.

### DARLING BAAKA

**Status:**

The tender evaluation panel met, and recommendations to proceed with agreements are being taken to the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board.

**Protected:**

Threatened ecological communities and native vegetation within the Darling Riverine Plains bioregion.

**On the traditional lands of:**

Barkandji, Ngemba and the Murrawarri people.

### UPPER HUNTER

**Status:**

Expressions of Interest have closed, and site assessments started in spring.

**Protected:**

Threatened Ecological Communities of the Upper Hunter Shire.

**We acknowledge Traditional Custodians:**

Across Wanaruah Country.

### SNOW GUM WOODLANDS AND GRASSLAND

**Status:**

Agreements have been signed and first year annual management payments have been made.

**Protected:**

Critically endangered ecological communities of snow gum woodlands and grasslands, specifically Monaro Tableland Cool Temperate Grassy Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands.

**On the traditional lands of:**

Ngarigo people and surrounding Nations.

### NORTHERN INLAND KOALA

**Status:**

Conservation agreements approved by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board are progressing to signed agreements with landholders.

**Protected:**

Significant koala populations of the Armidale and Uralla Local Government Areas.

**On the traditional lands of:**

Kamilaroi, Anaiwan and Gumbaynggirr people.

### LOWER CLARENCE VALLEY

**Status:**

Conservation agreements approved by the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust Board are progressing to signed agreements with landholders.

**Protected:**

Remnant threatened floodplain ecological communities including:

- Freshwater Wetlands
- Sub-tropical Coastal Floodplain Forest
- Swamp Sclerophyll Forest
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest
- Lowland Rainforest
- Coastal Saltmarsh

The area covered by this tender also includes significant areas of habitat for the endangered NSW population of coastal emu as well as many nationally significant wetlands including The Broadwater, Everlasting Swamp, Upper Coldstream and part of the Clarence River Estuary.

**On the traditional lands of:**

Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl people.

# Out in the field

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's staff love to support and share the work of private land conservation across the state, as seen in our happy snaps of the past months. If you have a photo to share, email it to [communications@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bct.nsw.gov.au)

Right: Our education team celebrated the world of science and technology by spending National Science Week at the Australian Museum. Working with Petaurus Education Group, the team talked about the importance of biodiversity in different habitats with visiting school students.

Below: Our Sydney Hunter team attended the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators' annual event at a conservation agreement property on the NSW MidCoast. Credit: Little Gecko



Below: We also attended seminars and training sessions on private land conservation and spoke to attendees about the work we do with landholders in NSW, our conservation goals, coming offers, tenders and projects.



Above: A landholder captured these images of a vulnerable Parma wallaby on an in-perpetuity agreement property in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA. The Parma wallaby population is threatened by the loss of habitat and by feral pests.

Right: Our CEO Erin Giuliani spoke to attendees of this year's NSW Farmers conference in Sydney, sharing the work we do with more than 2000 landholders to protect habitats and species on privately-owned property. She was joined by Sydney Hunter Regional Delivery Manager Ben Fitzpatrick, Board Chair Niall Blair and Senior Ecologist Stefan Giessler. Credit: Jillian Stephens







Left: We joined representatives from across the private land conservation sector at the Australian Land Conservation Alliance's (ALCA) 7th annual PLC23 Unite for Nature conference. Landholders Tommy and Martina showed delegates the critically endangered snow gum grasslands and woodlands protected by an in-perpetuity, funded conservation agreement on their Bungendore property.

Below: Ecologist Jemma Lemmon worked with Bush Heritage Australia to assess conservation management at Nameless Sylvan Reserve, in the Illawarra hinterland. The reserve contains stunning examples of huge red cedars and giant small leaf figs. Credit: Jemma Lemmon



Above: We joined Central Tablelands Local Land Services to discuss feral cat management on the property of conservation agreement-holders Elzette and Murray Connan, near Cumnock. Landholders learned the best way to set feral cat traps and to use monitors to identify the number of cats on a property. Credit: Joel Stibbard



Right: National Biodiversity Month was all about highlighting the work done by conservation agreement-holders who protect habitats and species on more than 2 million hectares of privately-owned property. Greg Rummery's (pictured) conservation journey was among a number of stories we shared. Credit: Colin Elphick



## SHARE YOUR STORIES

We want to know your stories of private land conservation success






If you'd like to share your feedback on a recent *Understory* edition or your own story of protecting species and habitat on your property, please email or send us a letter, with "I'd like to share my *Understory*" in the subject line or on the envelope.

 [communications@bct.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communications@bct.nsw.gov.au)  
 Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Join an online community of private land conservationists and supporters

We share regular updates, success stories and notices of events and other opportunities on our social channels.

 @NSWBCT  
 @NSW\_BCT  
 @BiodiversityConservationTrust  
 @NSW\_BCT  
 Search for the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust on YouTube



# Where we work



## Work with us


At the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, we love what we do to conserve our most at risk species and habitats and halt biodiversity loss.

With every passing year, more privately held land is protected and species flourish. We see our results grow year-on-year, literally.

We have office locations across the state and our work is flexible but connected and supported.

We advertise temporary and ongoing roles on a rolling basis. Join us and work with landholders to protect our state's diverse and precious environments.

 Find the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust on [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nsw-biodiversity-conservation-trust)

 Search for NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust on [iworkforNSW.gov.au](https://www.iworkforNSW.gov.au)



Join a purpose-led team and drive real outcomes for our environment. Credit: Colin Elphick

## Region boundaries and office locations

Our private land conservation efforts to protect our most at risk species and habitats happen across NSW, with regional staff offering localised support to help landholders meet their conservation management goals.

### WESTERN

#### Cobar

3-5 Bradley St, Cobar 2835  
PO Box 307, Cobar 2835

### CENTRAL WEST

#### Bathurst

Level 2, 203-209 Russell St,  
Bathurst 2795

#### Dubbo

48-52 Wingewarra St, Dubbo 2830  
PO Box 2111, Dubbo 2830

#### Orange

105 Prince St, Orange 2800  
Locked Bag 21, Orange 2800

### NORTHERN INLAND

#### Armidale

Building W0001, Trevanna Road,  
University of New England,  
Armidale 2351  
PO Box U221, University of New  
England, Armidale 2351

#### Gunnedah

c/o Local Land Services, 35-37  
Abbott Street, Gunnedah 2380

#### Inverell

7023 Gwydir Highway, Inverell 2360  
PO Box 299A, Inverell, 2360

#### Narrabri

Level 1, 100 Maitland Road,  
Narrabri 2390

### NORTH COAST

#### Coffs Harbour

Level 4/24 Moonee St,  
Coffs Harbour 2540

Locked Bag 914,  
Coffs Harbour, 2450

#### Lismore

1/26 Carrington St, Lismore 2480  
PO Box 1121, Lismore 2480

#### Port Macquarie

Level 1/75-77 Clarence Street,  
Port Macquarie 2444  
PO Box 63, Port Macquarie 2444

### SYDNEY HUNTER

#### Newcastle

Level 3, 6 Stewart Avenue,  
Newcastle West 2302  
Locked Bag 1002, Dangar 2309

#### Parramatta

Level 14, 4 Parramatta Square,  
12 Darcy St, Parramatta 2150  
Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta 2124

#### Taree

26 Muldoon St, Taree 2340  
c/o Local Land Services,  
PO Box 440, Taree, 2430

### SOUTH EAST

#### Fitzroy Falls

Highlands Parks Office, Nowra Rd,  
Fitzroy Falls 2577

#### Kiama

24 Terralong St, Kiama 2533

#### Narooma

Corner Graham and Burrawang Sts,  
Narooma 2546  
PO Box 282, Narooma 2546

#### Nowra

104 Flatrock Road,  
West Nowra 2541  
PO Box 707, Nowra 2541

#### Queanbeyan

Level 1/11 Farer Place,  
Queanbeyan 2620  
PO Box 733, Queanbeyan 2620

#### Wollongong

Level 3, 84 Crown St,  
Wollongong 2500

### MURRAY RIVERINA

#### Albury

Suite 5, 620 Macauley Street,  
Albury 2640  
PO Box 1040, Albury 2640

#### Wagga Wagga

192 Morgan Street,  
Wagga Wagga 2650

# NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust



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