

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is committed to ensuring that information of significant interest to the government and the community of NSW is disclosed in a timely and accessible manner.

Purpose:

This Continuous Disclosure Policy Statement outlines the disclosures the BCT publishes to ensure transparency and openness of decision making and regulatory and corporate functions.

For the purpose of this Policy Statement, *continuous disclosure* is defined as publishing information on performance, expenditure of public funds and any other information that would be of interest to members of the public.

The *NSW Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA) outlines principles of open government. The GIPA Act authorises that information is made publicly available unless there is an overriding interest against its disclosure. It is best practice for publicly funded entities to be accountable and transparent to the public for their use of public funds and resources. This increases the public's confidence in the integrity of government.

This Policy Statement aligns with the *Governance Lighthouse*, a guideline outlining core governance principles and components for public sector agencies, published by the Audit Office of NSW.

Disclosures:

The BCT is responsible for delivering private land conservation and biodiversity offset programs as set out in section 10 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

The BCT releases information at regular intervals on performance and expenditure of funds in the following disclosures:

- Information on our program offerings
- Information on our program outcomes including performance indicators
- Information on our corporate and governance functions including annual reporting obligations.

Disclosures are made in writing on the BCT and Service NSW websites and may take the form of a web page, public register, dashboard, brochure, fact sheet, media release, social media post, annual report, or other medium deemed appropriate.

The BCT maintains an ongoing data quality improvement program and may update information previously released.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Continuous disclosure policy statement



Information outside the scope of this Policy Statement includes:

- Third party information held by the BCT
- Requests under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*
- Sensitive information subject to commercial, legal or NSW Cabinet confidentiality, public interest immunity or other privileges or restrictions
- Personal information about individuals
- Information which may be defamatory.

The Hon. Niall Blair

BCT Board Chair

5 December 2023