



NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust



Impact Snapshot

Private land conservation:
January to June 2025

Message from the Chief Executive



I'm proud to share that the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust has reached its most significant milestones to date in meeting our business plan goals to protect 200,000 hectares of land and execute 400 new conservation agreements by June 2025. These achievements reflect the strength of our partnerships with landholders across the state, whose commitment to conservation continues to drive measurable outcomes for biodiversity.

Our new business plan, signed by the Hon. Penny Sharpe, Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Heritage, sets an ambitious target to protect and enhance an additional 200,000 hectares, with 120,000 hectares under permanent protection. Over the next 4 years, the aim is that privately managed conservation areas in NSW will match the size of Kosciuszko National Park in size, growing to more than 700,000 hectares.

These areas will be managed not only for today's needs but for the long-term resilience of NSW's biodiversity.

Our agreement-holders manage land that's home to more than 300 threatened species - some only found on privately managed land. With our new business plan, the coming 4 years will place a greater emphasis on the habitats and species we're most at risk of losing.

Your support as landholders, donors and corporate partners plays a critical role in scaling what works, investing in outcomes that matter, and helping shape a legacy of hope and recovery for nature in NSW.

Thank you for helping protect nature, forever.

Dr Erin Giuliani
NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Our leadership

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust was established under Part 10 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Under the Act, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust is managed by a Board and led by a Chief Executive Officer and executive leadership team.

bct.nsw.gov.au/leadership

OUR BOARD

The Hon. Niall Blair
Board Chair

Christine Covington
Board Deputy Chair

David Freudenberger
Planning and Delivery Committee Chair

John Pierce AO
Public Fund Management Committee Chair

Fiona Simson

Professor Phil Duncan

Tim King

John Maher

OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Erin Giuliani
Chief Executive Officer

Emily McCosker
Director Strategy and Finance

Kate Smillie and Holly Park
Co-directors Partnerships and Investment

Alan Goodwin
Director Regional Delivery

Matt Carr
Acting Director Regional Delivery

Mick O'Flynn
Director Programs

COVER

Central West grazier John Blanch has seen species like koalas return to a conservation area he manages alongside agricultural production. Picture by Eliza Spencer. Credit: Eliza Spencer, *The Land* newspaper.

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.

Our impact

NSW landholders who receive annual payments to actively and permanently manage an area of conservation on their land are adding to and growing Australia's National Reserve System (NRS) of public, Indigenous and privately protected areas.



2,564

private land conservation agreements with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust



\$475.9m

in funds invested to support conservation agreements



2.15m

hectares under a private land conservation agreement



304

threatened species protected by private land conservation in NSW, inclusive of Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.



589,876

hectares protected forever



14,023

hectares of koala habitat protected by landholders under the NSW Koala Strategy

Landholder commitment

Landholders are at the heart of all efforts to protect and conserve our state's biodiversity.



950

site visits to support landholders last financial year



2,300+

monitoring plots to help landholders report on biodiversity outcomes

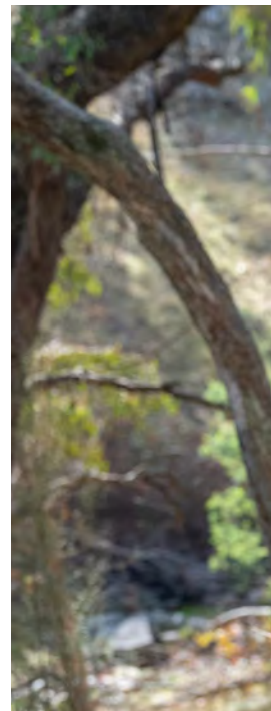


1,166

species identified and verified through our citizen science program

Reporting at 30 June 2025, unless stated otherwise

CASE STUDY



Conservation credentials add value for agribusiness

With an annual conservation management plan and investment from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, sheep grazer John Blanch has coaxed a koala population back onto his Central West property.

Story by Lynne Hughes.

After more than 6 years of dedicated revegetation and landscape management, a once-rare sighting of a mother and joey koala has become a rewarding symbol of success for conservation agreement-holder John Blanch.

The arrival of the koala family is proof the conservation work undertaken on *Brightling Park*, at Georges Plains, near Bathurst, is making a real difference in the restoration of local wildlife habitats.

When the agreement covering 67 hectares of the property's 600 hectares was signed in 2019, John hoped to improve his land management practices, aiming for enhanced biodiversity and a more sustainable, profitable farm and livestock business. John said the results exceeded expectations.

"Koala sightings here were very rare prior to 2017," he said.

"We saw one every 5 or so years, at best. Now we see them every year. There is a definite increase in the number of koalas scattered across the area and the recent sighting of a mother and joey was especially exciting."

John has worked hard to create a landscape that supports koalas and other native species. With annual payments from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, he has planted tree corridors, established several conservation areas, and undertaken extensive tree planting and weed management. These efforts have created safe passageways for koalas, allowing them to move freely across the landscape while

providing crucial refuge from threats like fire.

"Koalas need large, connected areas of habitat to eat, move and breed. The tree corridors we've planted help them do that," John said.

"It's amazing how quickly the landscape can recover when you give it a little help. We've noticed an increase in soil moisture and a reduction in erosion, which has also improved water retention on the property."



Left: Grazier John Blanch and ecologist Ben Perrott on the conservation agreement site John and his family manage.

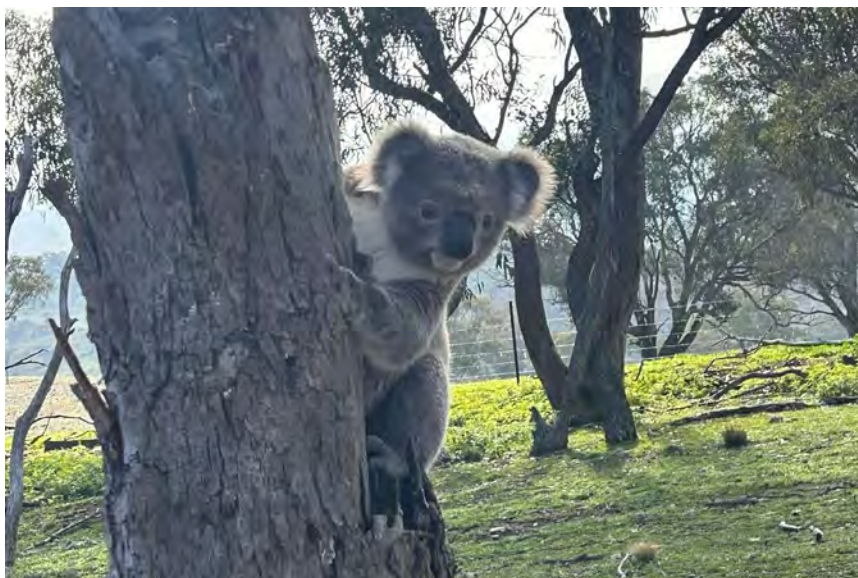
Below: Monitoring points across the conservation areas are used to report on the site's ecological condition.
Credit: Able Media Productions



Their conservation efforts have been bolstered using a digital platform that helps integrate biodiversity projects into their farming system. It has also allowed them to track and report on their environmental actions and document wildlife sightings.

John's long-term goal is to continue increasing biodiversity on the property, hoping it will lead to better ground cover and fewer weeds — while also fostering more koala families. His dedication to the environment is proving that sustainable farming and conservation can go hand in hand, bringing lasting benefits for both the land and its wildlife.

"It's not an easy undertaking," John admitted, "but seeing the positive changes and knowing we're helping koalas thrive makes it all worthwhile."



Above: A koala joey peers from behind the trunk of a tree its climbing.
Credit John Blanch

Grazier protects critical habitat

Total property size:
600 hectares.

Total area under agreement:
67 hectares across 7 fenced sites.

Protected:

- 24.4 hectares of critically-endangered Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum grassy Woodland.
- 19 hectares of Southern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forest.
- 4.4 hectares of Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forest.
- 40 hectares of Rockley Plains Landscape.
- 6 hectares of the Bathurst Granite Landscape.
- Habitat for koalas and vulnerable bird species such as scarlet robin, dusky woodswallow and diamond firetail.

Conservation plan:

The agreed conservation plan includes a fenced area that has been direct seeded. To assist with regeneration of the area, grazing has been excluded for 15 years. A further 2 sites are being rested from grazing and grazing occurs for 30 days through winter and early spring on the remaining protected sites of the agreement to ensure native grasses have time to flower and set seed.

Funded works:

The conservation agreement supports 4km of fencing to control stock access, weed control of serrated tussock and blackberry and funds for pest control of rabbits, foxes, feral cats and pigs.

Ecological monitoring:

4 monitoring plots exist, reporting annually.

Watch how a conservation area has supported *Brightling Park's* farm production.





Above: Direct seeding across 13 hectares of the property Allandale will create habitat for koalas.

Right: Eucalypts, casuarinas and cypress are being planted thanks to the vision of donors supporting a connected corridor of koala habitat from Allandale to the adjoining Murrumbidgee Valley National Park.



Investing in nature

Donors build a wildlife corridor

In the heart of the NSW Riverina, donors are helping reconnect a once-fragmented landscape.

Allandale, a 413-hectare property near the Murrumbidgee River, was purchased through the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's Revolving Fund program with a third of the property now protected forever with a conservation agreement.

The permanent protection covers mature river red gums, koala habitat, crucial nesting sites for the vulnerable superb parrot and habitat for a threatened

microbat, the southern myotis (*Myotis macropus*).

The remaining land is available for grazing and other uses, balancing conservation with farming and lifestyle opportunities.

Thanks to generous donor support, habitat restoration has started with a new wildlife corridor planted to connect the Murrumbidgee River to the adjoining Murrumbidgee Valley National Park. This will provide vital food, shelter, and connectivity for koalas and other species in a fragmented landscape.

Partnerships and Investment Co-Director Holly Park said a donor had supported direct seeding of native shrubs like acacias and chenopods across 13 hectares of the conservation area, with a further 13 hectares planted with tree and shrub tube stock, including eucalypts, casuarinas and cypress.

"The resulting wildlife corridor shows how private investment expands government investment to deliver lasting impacts," Holly said.

Get in touch at giving@bct.nsw.gov.au to discover how your tax-deductible donation can make a difference to nature.



Above: Private land conservation is growingly recognised for being at the intersection of measurable natural capital and farm profitability.

Biodiversity: a key driver of farm productivity and profitability

Conserving biodiversity is not just an environmental responsibility — it's a strategic investment in farm productivity and long-term profitability.

Biodiversity supports natural capital, which underpins vital ecosystem services like pollination, water regulation, soil fertility, and climate resilience. These services are essential for sustaining efficient and resilient agricultural systems.

Recent research by Farming for the Future has established a strong link between farm profitability and the value of natural capital. By assessing ground cover, proximity to natural ecosystems, and ecological condition, the study found that farms with higher natural capital scores consistently demonstrated higher productivity and profitability.

Beyond the farm gate, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust offers corporations a practical pathway to invest in biodiversity conservation.

These investments help de-risk agricultural and land-based operations, strengthen supply chain resilience, and contribute to future profitability by addressing nature-related impacts and dependencies.

For both farmers and corporate partners, biodiversity is emerging as a tangible asset — one that delivers environmental, economic, and reputational returns. Investing in nature today is key to securing the productivity and profitability of tomorrow.

To find out more about investing in biodiversity across NSW, contact partnerships@bct.nsw.gov.au or visit bct.nsw.gov.au/partnerships.

Conservation tenders and offers

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

COMING TENDERS

In 2025-2026, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust's conservation tenders will seek to collaborate on protecting and enhancing the Big Scrub rainforest of northern NSW; protecting Mallee Woodland vegetation of the northern Riverina; and, restoration of Box Gum Woodlands across the state.

For more information:

Coming tenders will be announced at bct.nsw.gov.au, and via our subscriber newsletter. To subscribe, visit bct.nsw.gov.au/subscribe.

FIXED PRICE OFFER

The fixed price offer sets out NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust payments, per hectare, per year, for eligible local government areas across the Western as well as the Central and Eastern areas of NSW.

Timeline:

The annual fixed price offer is open now.

For more information:

For full eligibility, the offer location and rates visit bct.nsw.gov.au/fixed-price-offers.

NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

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