

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust

**Protecting biodiversity.
Bringing benefits to landholders.**

We work in partnership with farmers and landholders to provide advice and support to protect land with high environmental values.

New investments in private land conservation

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) works to protect and enhance biodiversity across NSW. The BCT will manage an unprecedented \$240 million over four years, and \$70 million per year thereafter to help support landholders in protecting private land.

This investment recognises that with over 70% of land in NSW in private ownership or managed privately, it is essential that we work together with landholders and farmers to provide support to help protect and manage land with high environmental values, alongside other uses such as farming.

What do we offer?

The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust manages and delivers private land conservation programs across NSW. These programs can also provide stewardship payments, offering alternative income streams to rural landholders managing land with high environmental values.

There are three main types of voluntary private land conservation agreements. Having different types of agreements is important as each landholder has different circumstances and goals for their land or farm.

We also play a key role in the delivery of the NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme. We do this by sourcing biodiversity offsets to compensate for the loss of biodiversity from developments, when developers or proponents choose to meet their offset obligations by paying into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.



Who do we work with?

Landholders

We work with landholders across NSW who have land with high environmental values, such as

- native vegetation types that are rare, or
- large patches of native vegetation in cleared landscapes, or
- vegetation that includes habitat for threatened species.

We also work with landholders who can help to create biodiversity or fauna corridors. We work together with farmers and landholders to help protect land alongside other uses such as farming. We are the point of contact for people who already have biobanking agreements, conservation agreements and wildlife refuges.

Developers

We work with developers who choose to meet their offset obligations by paying into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund, which is managed by the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. The Trust then works with interested landholders to seek suitable land to meet the offset obligation. The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme aims to offset any unavoidable impacts on biodiversity from approved development proposals.



There are three types of agreements

They deliver better support to landholders, and create land use options and additional income streams for rural landholders.

- 1 Biodiversity stewardship agreements (BSA)** provides for permanent protection and management of biodiversity and allows for the creation of biodiversity credits. Biodiversity credits can be sold or retired to offset impacts from development under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.
- 2 Conservation agreements (CA)** are permanent or time-bound agreements that may be eligible for stewardship payments.
- 3 Wildlife refuge agreements (WRA)** are an option for landholders who want to protect the biodiversity on their property but do not wish to enter into a permanent agreement. Landholders with wildlife refuges may be able to apply for small grants to assist them with conservation management.

Benefits to Landholders

Landholders entering into an agreement to protect land with high environmental values will be able to access a range of support and benefits depending on individual circumstances, such as:

- Receiving stewardship payments as an additional income stream
- Accessing information and practical advice about how best to protect and manage land with high environmental values
- Being able to attend field days, meetings, workshops and social events.

Protecting vegetation and biodiversity on your land can provide benefits by strengthening productive farms and the surrounding area by:

- Improved drought management
- Improved soil and water table management
- Pest management
- Shelter for stock
- Improved sustainability credentials for farm produce
- Access to new markets
- Diversification of income.



Where do we work?

We have staff in regional offices across NSW who support and work with regional landholders and communities.

Please contact us on 1300 361 967
or at www.bct.nsw.gov.au to find your regional office or get more information.