

Biodiversity
Conservation
Trust



Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Paul Elton

Executive Director and Chief Executive

Our Conservation Champions



Scaling up PLC in NSW

NSW Government land management and biodiversity conservation reforms:

- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- \$240 million over five years to 2020-21, and \$70 million per annum ongoing (escalated)
- The new BCT



BCT Programs



Biodiversity Conservation Trust

Biodiversity Offsets Program

What is the Biodiversity Offsets Program?

The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), through its Biodiversity Offsets Program:

- assists landholders wishing to enter into Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements over their land, to conserve their land, and to generate and sell biodiversity credits; and
- secures offsets on behalf of participants who make payments into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

How do Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements work?

If you are a landholder, company or local council you may wish to enter a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA) that will generate biodiversity credits for sale. BSAs are voluntary agreements between the BCT and a landholder to permanently

protect and manage an area of land to improve its biodiversity values. BSAs enable you to generate biodiversity credits, which you can sell to:

- a developer; or
- to the BCT; or
- to other interested parties.

There are a number of steps when seeking to enter into a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement, and landholders should check the offsets page on the BCT website for more information.

What are biodiversity credits and how do they work?

Biodiversity credits are generated by landowners who commit to enhance and protect the biodiversity values on their land through a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement.

the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Program?

Biodiversity Offsets Scheme was under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and is administered by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The scheme aims to avoid, minimise and compensate for biodiversity impacts on biodiversity values.

The scheme establishes a credit system where impacts from an activity on one site can be offset by biodiversity at another site. Biodiversity credits are calculated and traded on the market. Credits are traded by buyers and sellers on the market.

Find out more about the BCT's programs is on the BCT website: bct.nsw.gov.au.

bct.nsw.gov.au | phone: 1300 992 688
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Conservation Partners

Do you want to conserve native fauna and flora on your land?

The Conservation Partners Program offers Conservation Agreements or Wildlife Refuge Agreements for landholders to protect and manage their native assets.

Wildlife Refuge Agreements

A Wildlife Refuge Agreement is an option if you wish to protect the biodiversity on your land but do not wish to enter into a permanent agreement. These agreements are for an area of a minimum of 10 hectares, however slightly smaller properties may be considered by the BCT if they contain very high conservation values or meet other strategic objectives of the Trust.

This can be a good option if you wish to explore how you can become involved in conservation.

Conservation Agreements (in-perpetuity)

A Conservation Agreement is a voluntary agreement between you and the BCT to conserve and manage biodiversity on an area of your land. These agreements are registered on the land title and are binding on subsequent landholders. Properties eligible for a Conservation Agreement should have a minimum 30 hectares proposed to be managed for biodiversity, however smaller properties may be considered by the BCT if they contain very high conservation values or meet other strategic objectives of the Trust.

This option may suit you if you have areas on your land that are of high conservation value and you wish to ensure those values are protected into the future.

What are the benefits for landholders?

Conservation Partners Program ensures landholders with high conservation value land and native flora and fauna will be protected for the future.

Landholders are supported by a Technical Support Package and can receive financial assistance to help maintain the ecological integrity of the property.

Landholders with in-perpetuity conservation agreements may also benefit from financial incentives (e.g. exemptions from stamp duty and local council rate relief).

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Conservation Management Program

Interested in managing land for conservation?

The Conservation Management Program is the main program offered by the NSW Government to encourage private landholders to manage their land for biodiversity conservation outcomes. To do this, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) offers the following voluntary mechanisms:

- Conservation leaders**—where landholders in high priority areas are invited to submit bids to be funded to manage nominated land for agreed conservation outcomes under Conservation Agreements.
- Road side offers**—where the BCT offers road side payments for agreed conservation management actions (\$ per hectare, per year) to secure land with high conservation value with in-perpetuity Conservation Agreements.
- A revolving fund**—where the BCT purchases land that has high conservation value, applies management covenants on the property title and then sells the land.

The Program is guided by the investment principles and priority investment areas identified in the Minister for Environment's Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy.

What does this program target?

- protecting landscapes that are currently unrepresented and inadequately reserved
- diversifying income for landholders in exchange for them undertaking conservation management actions.

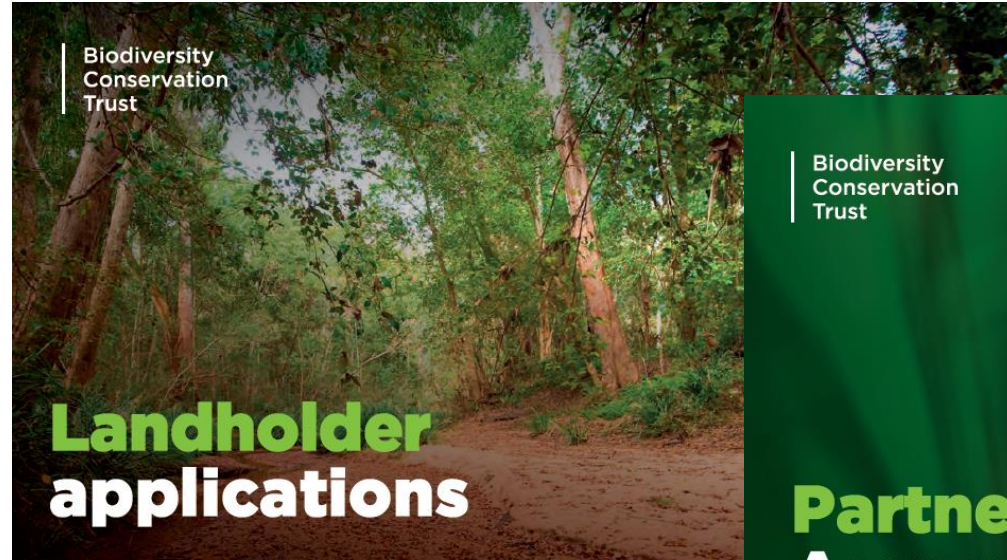
What are the benefits for landholders?

Landholders who enter into Conservation Agreements under this program receive conservation management payments and access the BCT's Landholder Technical Support Package.

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Conservation Partners Program



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Conservation Tenders

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Fixed Rate Offer

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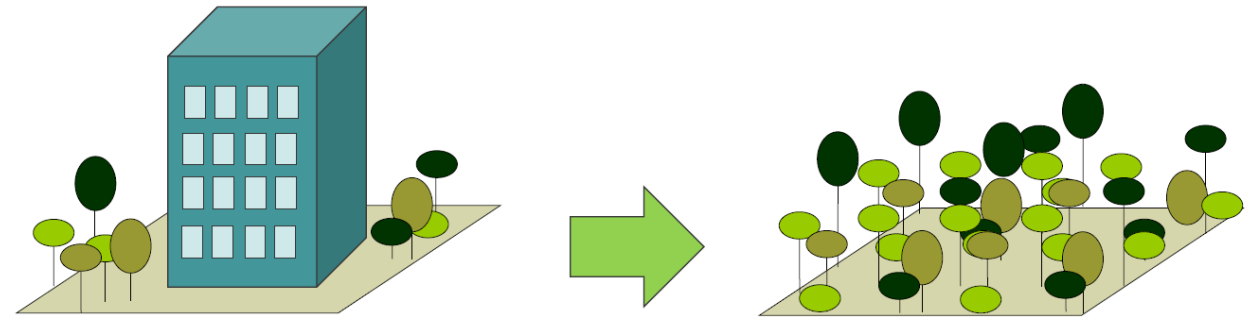
Revolving Fund

Conservation Management Program

$$\text{Biodiversity Value Index (BVI)} = \frac{\text{Biodiversity Value Score (BVS)}}{\text{Bid Price}}$$

Biodiversity Offsets Program

- **Supply side:** assist landholders to enter BSAs to generate and sell credits; and administer BSAs
- **Demand side:** developers have options to buy credits directly or pay into the BCF, after which the BCT then procures the offsets



Northern Inland Achievements

BCT has funded 12 Conservation Agreements, 2,700 ha, worth \$4.7 million. These 12 properties contain the following **priority landscapes which are now protected**:

- Moonbi – Walcha Granites
- Niangala Plateau and Slopes
- Dingo Spur Meta-sediments

Examples of **threatened fauna species** in these landscapes:

Koala



Regent honeyeater



Squirrel glider



Scarlet robin



Murray-Riverina Achievements

BCT has funded **11 Conservation Agreements**, 5000 ha, worth \$13.1 million. These 11 properties contain **7 priority landscapes** which are now protected, **5 known or likely threatened species** including the **critically endangered** plains wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) and **2 endangered ecological communities** (EECs).



Nigel and Helen Hooper signed an agreement in perpetuity to protect their property in the Murry-Riverina.



*Critically endangered plains wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) – Patrick_K59 CC BY 2.0*

Central Tablelands Achievements

BCT has funded **11 Conservation Agreements**, 3,500 ha, worth \$14.7 million. These 11 properties contain precious habitat such as critically endangered **White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Ecological Communities**. The region is also home to a variety of threatened fauna including **turquoise parrots, powerful owls, koalas** and **spotted-tailed quolls**.



Blakely's Red Gum Ecological Community



Powerful owl
(*Ninox strenua*)



Spotted-tailed quoll
(*Dasyurus maculatus*)

Our Conservation Champions



How is the BCT scaling up PLC in NSW?

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