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MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS HELP SAVE OUR SPECIES

The NSW Government has signed four conservation agreements with a North West Slopes landholder to protect critically endangered and vulnerable bird species habitats.

Environment Minister Mark Speakman said 1,892 hectares of threatened Box Gum Woodland was now permanently protected under the agreements to provide secure sites for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and vulnerable Diamond Firetails and Little Lorikeets to nest and breed.

These conservation agreements cover three properties in the Bundarra-Barraba area near Tamworth, which is one of only two known Regent Honeyeater breeding regions in NSW, and one property near Coonabarabran.

“Conservation agreements like these protect the biodiversity values of properties in perpetuity, which means the agreement and management guidelines remain in place if the landowner sells the property,” Mr Speakman said.

Parts of these properties will remain farmland while the areas covered by an agreement will be managed for conservation, to strike a balance between environmental protection and economic potential.

In this case, three of new conservation areas fall within the NSW Government’s *Saving our Species* (SoS) Regent Honeyeater conservation project area.

Management actions for this SoS management site, which also happens to be within an internationally recognised Important Bird and Biodiversity Area, include preventing key habitat loss.

“It’s fantastic to have such a large area of threatened species habitat on private land under a conservation agreement,” Mr Speakman said.

People interested in protecting threatened species habitat on their private property by entering into a conservation agreement can contact the Office of Environment and Heritage at conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au or the NSW Nature Conservation Trust at www.nct.org.au.