

Conservation Partners Program

OEH provides support to landholders for the establishment and monitoring of Wildlife Refuges. OEH also works in partnership with other government agencies, non-government organisations, community groups and local councils.

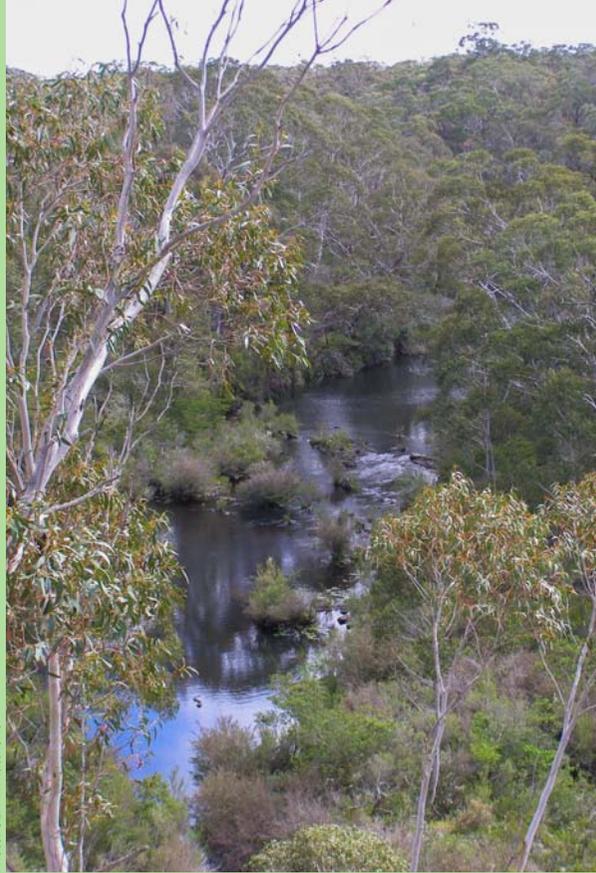
Wildlife Refuges are part of the OEH Conservation Partners Program and is one of a range of options for landholders to formalise conservation commitments on their property. The Conservation Partners Program includes Conservation Agreements and Wildlife Refuges, and supports Land for Wildlife. These options are voluntary and provide landholders with a range of choices to suit their needs.

The Conservation Partners Program aims to provide practical guidance, information and to encourage involvement in a range of activities to all 'conservation partners' across the network.



Photo: OEH L Brodie

Photo: OEH H Matthews



Further information

For more information on Wildlife Refuges and the Conservation Partners Program options available for you or your organisation:

visit the OEH website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/cpp/ConservationPartners.htm

email the Conservation Partners Program at conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au

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Cover photo: Sugar glider. OEH H Matthews



voluntary conservation Wildlife Refuges



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Owning a Wildlife Refuge is one way you can protect and conserve wildlife on your property and contribute to the conservation of our unique Australian native plants and animals and their habitats.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) works with people, organisations and communities to protect and conserve significant natural and cultural heritage in New South Wales. Wildlife Refuges have existed since 1948 and are one of the longest running voluntary schemes in Australia supporting conservation on private and public land.



Photo: OEH Evolving Images

What is a Wildlife Refuge

Creating a Wildlife Refuge to protect and conserve native wildlife and habitat on your property is voluntary.

The purpose for a Wildlife Refuge can include:

- recovery of local wildlife species
- restoration of natural environments
- study of wildlife and natural environments
- creating simulated natural environments.

Wildlife Refuges may contain remnant native vegetation as well as habitat provided by wildlife corridors, windbreaks, woodlots or farm dams.

Wildlife Refuge declarations enable landholders to nominate part or all of a property where the land has native wildlife values and will be managed for this purpose. With whole property management, landholders can continue to include agricultural and other landuses with the conservation of wildlife.

Who can own a Wildlife Refuge

A Wildlife Refuge is most suited for:

- properties with significant local wildlife and habitats
- landholders who would like to integrate wildlife conservation with other compatible land uses
- private landholders, public land managers and lessees of Crown land who wish to declare their land a Wildlife Refuge.

How a Wildlife Refuge is created

A Wildlife Refuge is legally established under section 68 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Landholders identify land to be covered by a Wildlife Refuge and with assistance from the OEH staff, information is prepared including a Scheme of Operations outlining management objectives. These are tailored for each property, ensuring that other property management objectives can be achieved while improving and maintaining native wildlife protection and conservation.

The NSW Governor declares the land as a Wildlife Refuge by proclamation in the Government Gazette. Wildlife Refuge status is noted on the title of the land and retains its status even if the land is sold.

A Wildlife Refuge declaration is free for the landholder and has flexibility. There are options for landholders to change the Wildlife Refuge status when required.

The benefits

Landholders who have their land proclaimed as a Wildlife Refuge join the OEH Conservation Partners Program which aims to encourage, support and assist landholders to manage areas for wildlife on their property.

It also provides opportunities for landholders to share their experiences with other landholders and partner organisations, through:

- identification signs for landholders who have Wildlife Refuge properties
- notes and news on particular management issues and ecology
- links and contacts with like minded people
- property management planning advice
- biodiversity assessment and survey assistance
- information about wildlife management
- information about the role of wildlife and native vegetation in sustainable agriculture to control pest species, provide shade and shelter, manage salinity and control wind and water erosion
- access to education programs and activities
- assistance to support implementation of management plans.



Photo: OEH M Beretta