

Conservation Partners Program

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

Conservation Agreements 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 entered into voluntarily 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 V Bear

Further information

For more information on Conservation Agreements 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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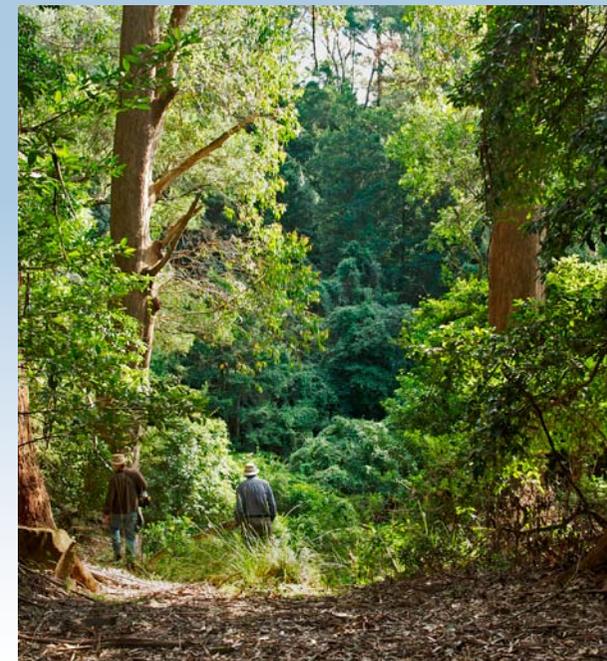
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voluntary conservation Conservation Agreements



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Managing your property under a Conservation Agreement is one way in which you can contribute to the conservation of our unique Australian natural and cultural heritage.

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. This includes working with private and public landholders who have Conservation Agreements.

What is a Conservation Agreement

A Conservation Agreement is an agreement between landholders and the Minister for the Environment. The Agreement provides permanent protection for the special features of the land. Entering into an agreement is voluntary. Land can be privately or publicly owned or leased from the Crown.

The Agreement is legally established under section 69A-KA of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. It is registered on the title of the land covered by the Agreement, ensuring that if the land is sold, the Agreement and management requirements remain in place.

Who can enter into a Conservation Agreement

A Conservation Agreement is most suited for:

- properties which have special features including native vegetation and biodiversity, wildlife habitat, threatened species, Aboriginal sites and historic places
- landholders who want their investment in the conservation of the area to be permanently protected after they leave the property
- landholders who want to legally formalise the protection and management of land for conservation in perpetuity.

What areas can a Conservation Agreement protect

A Conservation Agreements may be entered into for:

- areas containing scenery, natural environments or natural phenomenon worthy of preservation
- areas of special scientific interest
- buildings, objects, monuments or events of national significance
- areas where Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places of special significance are situated
- the study, preservation, protection, care or propagation of fauna or native plants or other flora
- the study, preservation, protection, care of karst environments
- the conservation of critical habitat, or the conservation of threatened species, populations or ecological community, or habitat.

How a Conservation Agreement is created

If both the landholder and the OEH (on behalf of the Minister for the Environment) wish to proceed, landholders identify, with guidance from OEH, the area to be covered by the Conservation Agreement.

A draft Agreement is negotiated which includes a diagram showing the part of the property covered by the Agreement, and management, and monitoring schemes tailored for the property. Several drafts may be developed before the document is finalised and signed off by all parties to the Agreement.

The benefits

A Conservation Agreement provides the opportunity for land to be permanently conserved—not just under current ownership, but by all future owners.

Conservation Agreements are protected areas recognised as part of the National Reserve System.

When entering into a Conservation Agreement, the landholder retains ownership and responsibility for the management of the land.

OEH may provide assistance to the landholder in the form of:

- natural and/or cultural heritage assessment and survey
- property management planning advice
- Conservation Area identification signs
- information and practical advice about conservation management strategies
- notes and news on particular management issues and ecology
- links and contacts with like minded people
- access to education programs and activities
- funding to support implementation of management plans
- rate and tax concession arrangements.

