



Partner Organisations

The NPWS administers Conservation Agreements in New South Wales under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974*.

Delivery of program services to landholders is undertaken by the NPWS. From time to time NPWS works in partnership with other government agencies, non-government organisations, community groups and local councils.

Conservation Partners Program

Voluntary Conservation Agreements are part of the NPWS Conservation Partners Program and is one of a range of options available to landholders wanting to be involved in conservation. The Conservation Partners Program includes Voluntary Conservation Agreements, Wildlife Refuges, Land for Wildlife and other options that support conservation on private and public land.

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



Further Information

For more information on how you or your organisation can enter into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement or information on the Conservation Partners Program, contact the Conservation Partners Program Coordinator:

Conservation Partnership Unit
Parks & Wildlife Division
Department of Environment & Conservation
43 Bridge Street Hurstville NSW 2220
PO Box 1967 Hurstville NSW 1481

Ph: 1300 361 967

Email: conservation.partners@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website: Go to - www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

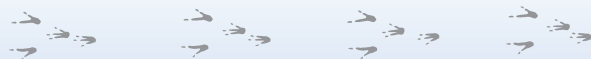
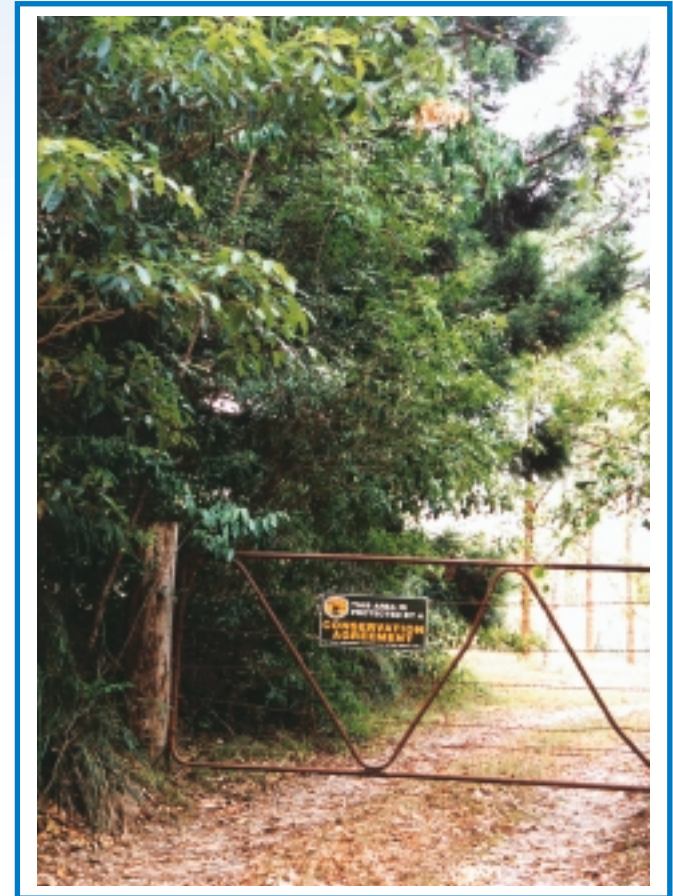
Select - How you can help

Select - Conserving nature outside National Parks



Department of
Environment and
Conservation (NSW)

Voluntary Conservation Agreements



Department of
Environment and
Conservation (NSW)

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

The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), part of the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) works with people and communities to protect and conserve nature, Aboriginal heritage and historic heritage in New South Wales. This includes working with landholders who have Voluntary Conservation Agreements.

What is Voluntary Conservation Agreement

A Voluntary Conservation Agreement is a joint agreement between landowners and the Minister for the Environment. The Agreement provides permanent protection for the special features of your land and is voluntary.

The area under the Agreement is registered on the title of the land ensuring that if the land is sold, the Agreement and management requirements remain in place.



What areas can a Voluntary Conservation Agreement Protect

A conservation agreement may be entered into:

- for areas containing scenery, natural environments or natural phenomena worthy of preservation
- for areas of special scientific interest
- for areas that are the sites of buildings, objects, monuments or events of national significance
- in relation to areas in which Aboriginal objects, or Aboriginal places, of special significance are situated
- for the study, preservation, protection, care or propagation of fauna or native plants or other flora
- for the study, preservation, protection, care of karst environments
- for the conservation of critical habitat or the conservation of threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats.

Who can enter into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement

A Voluntary Conservation Agreement is most suited to people who:

- have special features including native vegetation, wildlife habitat, Aboriginal sites and historic places on their property
- want their investment in the conservation of the area to be protected after they leave the property.

Owners of freehold land, lessees of Crown land and local councils are eligible to enter into these Agreements.

How is a Voluntary Conservation Agreement Created

If both the landowners and the NPWS (on behalf of the Minister for the Environment) wish to proceed with the Agreement, a draft Agreement is jointly produced. Several drafts may be developed before the final document is produced.

What are the benefits

A Voluntary Conservation Agreement provides the opportunity for land to be permanently conserved - not just under current ownership, but for all future owners. When entering into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement, the landowner continues to undertake responsibility for the management of the land, including control of weeds and feral animals.

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

- property management planning advice
- biodiversity surveying and assessment assistance
- information and practical advice about conservation management strategies
- links and contacts with like minded people
- notes and news on particular management issues and ecology
- signs
- access to education programs and activities
- assistance programs to support implementation of management plans.

Landholders who enter into a Voluntary Conservation Agreement may be eligible for rate relief and tax deductions, although this is not controlled by the NPWS.