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Covenanting your box gum grassy woodland patch

You are invited to consider entering into an in-perpetuity conservation covenant to protect box gum grassy woodland patches for which you receive payment. **Please note that only land owners can enter into a conservation covenant.**

What are conservation covenants?

Conservation covenants are voluntary agreements negotiated between a land owner and the relevant authority to protect and manage land of high conservation value for conservation outcomes.

Conservation covenants are recorded on the title of the land and they usually restrict, for the duration of the covenant, particular actions or types of land use that would degrade the conservation value of the land. As covenants are recorded on title, they remain in effect even if the land is sold.

The Australian Government would like to ensure that its investment through the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project, and the conservation benefits arising from it, are protected. Accordingly, the Australian Government encourages you to consider perpetual covenants over your box gum grassy woodland patch. Because perpetual covenants are highly valued by the Australian Government, if you offer a perpetual covenant you will receive significant additional weighting to your score when the Conservation Value Score for your site is being calculated.

Why should a land owner consider making a perpetual covenant commitment on their woodland?

By entering into a perpetual covenant you are ensuring that future generations will be able to benefit from the protection of the biodiversity and the continuation of essential ecosystem services, which are important for landscape productivity, even if you leave the property.

If you enter into a covenant you may also gain access to ongoing support and a network of other land managers using covenants for conservation and land management.

You may also wish to contact your local council, as many local governments offer rate concessions and other incentives to covenant holders.



▲ Pink Stars (Photo: Matt White)



Who are the covenanting authorities?

There are two organizations in New South Wales that offer in-perpetuity covenants.

a) New South Wales Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water

The NSW Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water runs the Conservation Agreements Program. If you wish to covenant your site through the Department you should contact the Program to discuss the procedures for putting a covenant in place.

You can contact the Conservation Agreements Program, Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water on **02 9585 6040**.

By entering into a perpetual conservation covenant through the Conservation Agreements Program you may also be

eligible for income tax deductions and concessional capital gains tax treatment.

It is important that you contact your financial adviser, or the Australian Taxation Office, to find out how a covenant may affect your personal tax status.

b) Nature Conservation Trust of New South Wales

If you wish to discuss an in-perpetuity covenant with the Nature Conservation Trust you can contact the Trust on **02 6365 7543**.

By when does a covenant need to be in place?

You have two years from the time a funding agreement with the Australian Government for the Box Gum Grassy Woodland Project is signed to have a covenant in place.



▲ State 1 grassy box woodland (Photo: R Rehwinkel)