



TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION COVENANTS



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Cover photo: Plains-wanderer. Photo: Eugene O'Brien

*Grass trees on a covenanted property in the Corangamite region.
Photo: Liz McGrath*

“We would like to leave this land better than when we arrived and to know that it will stay that way.”

Trust for Nature covenantor



Sugar gliders found in nesting box. Photo: Dr Janis Baker

Trust for Nature (Victoria) is a private-land conservation organisation that has been working with landowners since 1972 to protect Victoria's native plants and wildlife, forever. The Conservation Covenant program is one of the many ways Trust for Nature works to protect biodiversity on private land. The Trust's conservation covenants are legally binding agreements with landowners, which determine future conditions and rights for the land.

What is a conservation covenant?

A conservation covenant is a voluntary, yet legally binding agreement made between a private landowner and Trust for Nature. Its purpose is to permanently conserve and protect the natural, cultural or scientific values of the land. Once agreed, the covenant is registered on a property's certificate of title. If the property is sold, the covenant transfers with the title and becomes the responsibility of the new owner. Once a covenant is in place, Trust for Nature helps landowners to better manage their land through its Stewardship Program.

How does a conservation covenant work?

A conservation covenant defines a set of conditions and rights for a particular property in relation to future landuse activities, with the aim of protecting and improving the quality of the natural features for generations to come. A set of conditions can be negotiated individually with a landowner to ensure that their wishes and the needs of the land are clearly defined. Once agreed, the conditions and rights are permanently written into the deed of covenant and future owners are obliged to meet the conditions. Trust for Nature works with landowners to ensure they have access to information and assistance for appropriate land management through the Trust's Stewardship Program. Depending on the wishes of a landowner, a covenant can protect all or part of a property.



Carrying out works on a covenanted property. Photo: Liz McGrath



Veined helmet-orchid at Tootgarook Swamp. Photo: Trust for Nature



Wanderers Plain. Photo: Trust for Nature

Can any property be covenanted?

Every property must be assessed by Trust for Nature, and then the Trust's Board considers an application for a covenant. The assessment looks at the quality and extent of native vegetation, the presence of important plants and wildlife and the surrounding land uses. Once the Trust for Nature Board has approved a conservation covenant, the final step is to seek the Environment Minister's endorsement.

Need more information?

Our staff are happy to talk to you more about Trust for Nature's Covenant Program. Please call us on **(03) 8631 5888** or **1800 99 99 33**. Alternatively, you can read more on our website: **www.trustfornature.org.au**

We rely on your donations to help protect native plants and wildlife on private land. If you are considering a donation to Trust for Nature please contact us on **(03) 8631 5888** or visit our website: **www.trustfornature.org.au/donate/**