

trust for nature covenant protection

The Trust for Nature Covenant Protection Payment is a program that complements the Rural Rate Rebate Scheme. The payment is part of Council's Land Management Biodiversity Incentive Program.

Do you have intact native bush on your property?

Trust for Nature is a non-profit organisation that works with landowners to protect remnant bushland on their property.

Only 5 per cent of remnant bushland remains untouched on privately owned land in Victoria. Every year more of this remnant bushland is disappearing. With it, the animals and plants that called it home are rapidly declining in numbers and species.

Do you want to permanently protect your native bush?

With help from Trust for Nature, landowners can place covenants on their remnant bushland to permanently protect it from subdivision, clearing, stock grazing or other threatening activities - even after the property has been sold.

What is a Conservation Covenant?

A conservation covenant is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the Trust for Nature, which permanently protects the conservation values of your land forever. Conservation covenants derive from the Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972 and have the force of statute. The covenant is registered on the property title and binds all future owners. This enables you to ensure that future owners of your land respect the conservation values that you have worked so hard to protect.

What land can be covenanted?

Owners of land which feature good examples of native bush, particularly endangered vegetation types, are encouraged to apply for a protective covenant. Such land may have threatened plants or animals, or be one of the last remaining patches of bush in the area. The property may form part of an important wildlife corridor, or act as a buffer to protect a neighbouring National or State Park or Reserve.

Will a covenant affect my rates?

If land is covenanted under the Trust for Nature program within the Bass Coast Shire, you will receive an incentive payment of \$5 per hectare of covenanted bush. The minimum payment is \$100 and can be up to a maximum of \$500 per annum, to assist in the maintenance of these areas.

Further Information

For further information visit the Trust for Nature Victoria website at www.trustfornature.org.au/ or contact the West Gippsland Regional Manager, John Hick, on 0437 589 317.