

Conservation Agreement

What is a Conservation Agreement?

A Conservation Agreement is a voluntary agreement between Council and the landholder. This agreement involves a commitment by the landholder for a period of 5 years for the conservation of an area. The agreement is legally binding but doesn't affect the title. The landholder is eligible to receive a rate rebate of up to 50%.

Why become part of the Conservation Agreement program?

Conservation Agreements create partnerships between Council and the landholder for the protection of natural values. The Conservation Agreement offers landowners the opportunity to preserve sections of land without affecting the title. Entering an agreement provides the opportunity to access grant funding, possible rate reduction and management advice for the Conservation Agreement area.

Will the agreement affect the land title?

No, the agreement doesn't affect the title of the land. The agreement doesn't allow public access rights and will not affect ownership rights of the land. Owners holding "nature refuge" status with the State are encouraged to apply for the Voluntary Conservation Agreement.

Some of the Benefits

Financial Assistance – Depending on the type, scale and quality of the proposed covenant area, participants can receive up to 50% off the general rate applicable to the portion of land covered by the program.

Grants and Funding – Landholders have the opportunity to access

Council's Environmental Grants Program and other sources of funding for conservation works on the property.

Personalised Management Plan – A property-specific management plan that considers land type, resources and vision will be developed between the landholder and Council Officer. The plan will be reviewed annually to reflect the needs of the conservation area

Technical Advice – Ongoing technical advice will be available to the landholder through arranged site visits.



Flexibility – The management plan is flexible upon negotiation with a Council Officer and can be amended as necessary.

Is my property eligible?

A site assessment will be undertaken by a Council Officer with the landholder to determine eligibility. Properties containing endangered, of concern ecosystems, habitat that supports endangered species or large areas of remnant vegetation have the potential to be included in the program.

Landholders with "Nature Refuge" status with State Government are eligible to apply for a Conservation Agreement.



Constructing a Management Plan

A council officer will visit the proposed site and discuss options with the owner. A site assessment will be conducted if the owner agrees and Council deem the property to be eligible.

The landowner will be invited to provide input into the management plan to negotiate arrangements before the agreement commences.

Owner Obligations

Following successful entry into the program, the landholder will be obligated to undertake actions outlined in the management plan. These actions may include vehicle and livestock exclusion, weed management works or vegetation works. Council will undertake regular inspections of the conservation area and discuss aspects of the management plan with the landowner.

Example of a Rate Rebate

Below is an example of a rate rebate calculation. This has been applied to 22 Ha of an 80 Ha property. The rate rebate has been set at 50%. Note, actual amounts and figures will vary.

More Information

For more on Councils Habitat Protection Program or to arrange a site assessment with an officer, please contact Council's Environmental Policy and Services section on 5540 5111 or visit www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au

How to Calculate

Below is an example of a rate rebate calculation. This has been applied to 22 Ha of an 80 Ha property. The rate rebate has been set at 50%. Note, actual amounts and figures will vary.

Example

- Total Property Area 80 Ha
- Conservation Area 22 Ha
- If a 100% rate rebate is offered
- General Rate = \$960

Rate Rebate = $\$960 \times 22 \text{ Ha} / 80 \text{ ha} \times 50 (\%) = \text{Total}$

Rate Rebate = $\$960 \times 22 / 0.5 \times 1 = \132 .

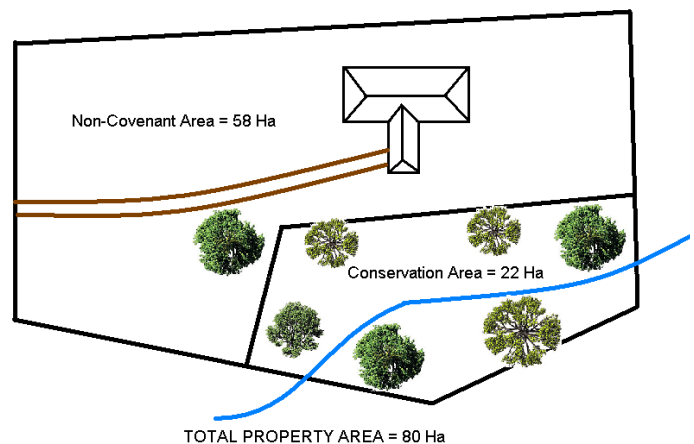


Figure: Example of rate rebate calculation.