



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conservation funding opportunity for local landholders in the Albury Electorate

The Member for Albury, Greg Aplin, today announced that the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) will open a new conservation tender for interested landholders following the success of the tender held in the region earlier this year.

“The BCT’s first conservation tender in region opened in March and was overwhelmingly successful and the BCT is now opening a new conservation tender within the region,” Greg Aplin said.

The success of the BCT conservation tender in March is clear; the BCT is entering into 11 conservation agreements with landholders in the Murray-Riverina. These agreements cover nearly 5,000 hectares and are worth a total of \$13.1 million, provided to the landholder through annual payments for the term of the agreement.

“On the back of the success of the previous tender in the region, expressions of interest for the current tender round open on 22 October 2018.

“This is part of the NSW Government’s unprecedented investment of \$240 million over five years, and \$70 million per year ongoing, in a new private land conservation program,” Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP said.

“The BCT’s conservation management program offers a ground-breaking approach to conserving biodiversity, where landholders can set their own bid price and voluntarily compete in a tender to win a funded conservation agreement on a value for money basis,” she said.

Landholders will be supported by the BCT to submit costed management plans. If the site is assessed as suitable, the BCT and the landholder will negotiate a conservation agreement.

Under an agreement, the landholder will be funded to carry out agreed conservation management actions. Generally agreements with the BCT can be in-perpetuity or for a fixed term (minimum 15 years).

“The conservation agreements we’ve already signed in regional NSW showcase great support for protecting rare landscapes and endangered wildlife. People want to leave a good legacy of conservation for future generations,” Ms Upton said.

“The importance of private landholders being supported to conserve and manage biodiversity on their land is being recognised in NSW and internationally.

The Minister announced on 15 July that the NSW Government had committed \$61.4 million across the BCT’s programs for 2018-19 to deliver major benefits to the

environment and support landholders to carry out important conservation management on their properties. Of this funding, \$46.6 million will be used for the BCT's Conservation Tenders in 2018-19.

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