

## What is the process?

Trust members and the Conservation Covenants Officer visit the landowner's property to discuss options and ideas. Those landowners wishing to progress, are encouraged to read the covenant process booklet for more information. All potential covenants must go through an approval process by the Trust's Covenants Committee.

## Want more information?

Please contact our staff

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We are located next to the  
only petrol station in Tai Tapu



Rick Menzies accepting a Canterbury Resource Management Award 2004 from former Prime Minister Honourable Helen Clark

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# Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Conservation Covenants

A voluntary method to protect landscape and biodiversity values, and support sustainable land management on Banks Peninsula.



A *Conservation Covenant* is offered to landowners who wish to protect special areas on Banks Peninsula. The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust can assist landowners in voluntary covenanting by applying on their behalf to funding agencies to secure finances for fencing, surveying and other costs.

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust has been covenanting land on Banks Peninsula since 2001. The Trust has an excellent working relationship with landowners who wish to protect biodiversity and leave a legacy for future generations.



Remnant patches of bush, shrubland, tussockland, coastal areas, rock outcrops and wetlands are among Banks Peninsula's most important ecological and scenic assets.

These areas contain communities of native plants, birds, insects and fish. Many landowners recognise their importance and wish to see them conserved into the future.

### What is a conservation covenant?

A *conservation covenant* is a legal agreement to protect an important piece of land. It is a voluntary agreement between the landowner and the Trust.

### Why have a covenant?

A *covenant* enables a landowner to ensure that special areas on their property are protected into the future. Fencing natural areas allows appropriate management of grazing animals to enhance the ecology of the area.

Not only will the plants and wildlife benefit, but the owner and wider community benefit from improved water quality, soil properties, and landscape values. Landowners may also be eligible for financial assistance (for work such as surveying and fencing).

### Who can apply for a covenant?

If you own land on Banks Peninsula, we encourage you to contact the Trust to discuss covenanting or for ecological information about your area.

### What is the role of the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust?

As a voluntary, community-led, independent organisation, the Trust works with landowners and agencies to develop community approaches to sustainable land management and conservation. This is carried out through implementation of the Trust's Business Plan and Trust Vision.

### Where do we get our funding?

The Trust spends considerable time seeking ongoing funding for projects (including fencing), administrative and office costs, workshops and staff salaries. To date funds have been secured from numerous local, regional, national and international funding sources. More help is always welcome.

## Important aspects of a conservation covenant:

### *Ownership*

The landowner always retains ownership of and responsibility for the land.

### *Land title*

The *conservation covenant* is entered on the owner's land title for the duration of the covenant term or in perpetuity.

### *Public Access*

The public does not have right of access to the covenanted land unless the landowner allows access in the agreement.

### *Management*

Management of the covenant is principally the responsibility of the landowner. Normal maintenance of fences, weed and pest control are the responsibility of the landowner.

The landowner and Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust jointly agree to a Management Plan for the area. This includes an ecological assessment, maintenance regime, monitoring plan and any variations to the covenant.

### *Property Values*

Some rural landowners with covenants have benefited from increased land values when selling their land.

### *Costs*

Costs for fencing, surveys or registration may be sourced by the Trust depending on the ecological value of the area. In special situations, the Trust may also assist with funding applications for weed and pest control.

