

Want more information?

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Banks Peninsula Conservation Conservation Covenants - The Process

Conservation covenants are a voluntary method to protect biodiversity, landscape values and sustainable land management initiatives.



Fishermans Bay

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust is a covenanting authority. The Trust has been working with landowners since 2001 to protect natural areas through conservation covenants. It currently has 54 registered covenants, totalling 735 ha (March 2015).



Te Puhoe

The Monument

This is a 10 step guide to the covenanting process

The Process

Step 1: Information Pack

An information pack is sent to all interested landowners. Trust representatives will then organise with the landowners a suitable time to visit and inspect the site.

Step 2: Site Inspection

The Conservation Covenants Officer and a Liaison person from the Trust meet landowners on site to discuss the covenanting process, background ecological information and the landholders interest in entering into a covenant.

It is recommended that landowners seek legal advice regarding the documents they must sign as part of the covenanting process.

These documents will be provided to landowners at this meeting. If the landowners are interested in covenanting the Trust's Liaison and Conservation Covenants Officer will take the information gained during the site inspection and present it to the Trust's Covenants Committee.

Step 3: Covenant Assessment

The Trust's Covenants Committee will complete a criteria assessment of the site. If approval to support is given, another site visit will be arranged to gather further information to assist with sourcing funds to covenant the site (this excludes resource consent or subdivision covenants, as a different process exists).

Step 4: Deed and Funding Application

A **Deed** will be signed between the landowners and the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. **The Deed** is a **legal document** that acknowledges the landowners agreeing to join the Trust to place a Conservation Covenant over the site. Once the deed is signed, an application for fencing, surveying and associated costs will be submitted by the Trust to an external funding agency.

Step 5: Fencing and Surveying

If funding is successful, the site will be walked with the landowners, fencer and Trust's representatives to finalise the location of the fence line. Photopoint monitoring sites will be established, to monitor change and for reporting.

The covenant will then be fenced (cost covered by an external funding agency). On completion of the fencing, the covenant will be surveyed (cost covered by an external funding agency) to produce a map of the covenanted site.



Step 6: Covenant Signed

The map of the site will be sent to the landowners for signing. Then a **Covenant agreement** will be signed by the landowners and the Trust. The covenant is the **legal document** that is registered against the title of the land for the intention of "preserving the natural environment".

Step 7: Covenant Registered

The covenant will be registered against the land title. The Trust will apply to Christchurch City Council on behalf of the landowners for rate relief on the covenanted site.

Step 8: Ecological Survey

A site survey will be undertaken by the Trust's Ecologist for inclusion in a management plan. This includes listing any variations which the covenanted area may be used for, and detailing, any history or background that the landowners would like included in the plan. Photopoint monitoring will be undertaken to review progress.

Step 9: Management Plan

A draft management plan will be developed in consultation with the landowners. Landowners comments will be reviewed and a final **Management Plan** will be signed by the landowners and the Trust. This plan supports the covenant document.

Step 10: Review and Maintenance

A review will be undertaken within 5 years of signing the management plan, which will involve review of the monitoring program (photopoints) and may involve an ecological assessment.

Fence maintenance and implementation of regional requirements (e.g. weed control) remains the responsibility of the landowners with support from the trust where appropriate.

Note: Three legal documents (highlighted in bold) must be signed by the landowners and the Trust. The Trust recommends that the landowners seek legal advice before signing these documents.