

Conservation Covenants

A guide for buying, owning and selling covenanted land

- implications and responsibilities:

1. A conservation covenant is a legal agreement between the landowner and Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust designed to protect a special area
2. Landowners on Banks Peninsula choose to voluntarily protect their land. People usually protect land with a conservation covenant to leave a legacy for future generations
3. Land with a conservation covenant has valuable flora and fauna, and special biodiversity features
4. A conservation covenant is registered on the land title, usually in perpetuity, meaning it is binding on current and future landowners
5. A covenant cannot be removed, although management options can be discussed with the Trust
6. The landowner retains ownership and management of the covenant, and continues to hold all property rights although some activities are restricted
7. Ongoing weed and pest management are the landowner's responsibility though the Trust can support with advice, and volunteer assistance if available
8. Ongoing fence maintenance is the landowner's responsibility. In the event of fence damage of any type including fire damage, fences must be reinstated to stock proof standard at the landowner's expense. Adequate fence insurance including fire cover is therefore strongly recommended
9. As with all private property, the public do not have the right to enter your covenant without permission
10. Each covenant agreement is unique so you will need to ensure you understand the individual covenant details. The covenant documents will explain where the covenant is located, what is special about it, what is allowed or is not allowed, and both the landowner's and BPCT's responsibilities
11. A management plan is written for each covenant. This explains the history, biodiversity, any potential threats and ways to deal with them. Upon the sale of a covenant the Trust will review the existing management plan with the new owner
12. It is important to consult with a lawyer before purchasing a property so that you are clear about what you are purchasing, where the boundaries of the covenant are, and what your responsibilities involve
13. If you are considering purchasing a property with a covenant feel free to get in touch with the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust Covenants Officer



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