



NATIONAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Conditions for receiving National Reserve System funding for covenanting activities on private land

The National Reserve System (NRS) is Australia's system of terrestrial protected areas. One of the ways that the Australian Government strengthens Australia's National Reserve System is by supporting covenanting organisations to help landholders voluntarily establish perpetual conservation covenants on privately owned land. Proposals for financial assistance will be assessed on a case by case basis. Priority is given to activities that will lead to or achieve the on-ground establishment of conservation covenants that meet NRS standards¹.

¹ The minimum standards that protected areas must meet to be included in the National Reserve System can be seen at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/nrs/pubs/inclusionstandards.pdf>

Eligible Activities

Activities that will be considered for funding may include foundational, influencing or on-ground activities that will lead to or achieve the on-ground establishment of conservation covenants that meet NRS standards. Examples of activities that may be funded include:

	Activity type	Eligible activities may include:
FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES	Developing covenanting mechanisms - processes, institutional arrangements and reviewing legislation	Development or review of policy framework for covenants Strategic planning to identify areas where NRS covenants are appropriate within a landscape
	Strengthening the covenanting sector - communication, networking and best practice for covenanting agencies	Development of sector coordination mechanisms Development of best practice guidelines and standards
	Developing plans and frameworks to ensure high value land is targeted for covenanting.	Assessment of existing covenants against criteria for inclusion in the NRS Landscape planning and prioritisation for targeting covenants and extension activities
INFLUENCE ACTIVITIES	Extension and awareness-raising activities to engage landholders	Awareness and extension activities to engage landholders in covenanting
DIRECT/ON-GROUND ACTIVITIES	Provision of financial support to landholders to establish covenants	Contributions to the establishment costs of covenants e.g. legal fees, surveying
	Development of conservation agreements and management plans	Management planning for private land – for example, management guideline template or landholder group workshops for management planning and support for multiple properties rather than individual properties
	Registration of covenants	Assisting covenanting organisations to cover the additional cost of administering larger numbers of covenants due to NRS funding.

Ineligible activities:

Funding will not be provided for activities that are normally the core business of state, territory or regional bodies. Other ineligible activities include:

- establishment of revolving funds to establish perpetual conservation covenants for properties to be on-sold
- incentive payments
- management activities, including threat abatement
- covenanting activities that are normally the core business of state, territory or regional bodies
- activities incompatible with biodiversity conservation
- endowment funds for management
- activities on existing covenants