



EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



trust for nature

BIODIVERSITY / PLANNING

'Re-creating native eco-systems is so difficult to do, the best thing we can do is retain and protect what we have left. And, the best way to do this is with conservation covenants.'

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Conservation covenants are a way of permanently protecting remnant vegetation on private land. There is so little bush left in Victoria that we need to preserve as much as we can.

I see my family as temporary residents of the land. In an ecological perspective, we really only have it, and enjoy it, for such a short period of time. If we can ensure its long-term future, then I feel we have done the best we can do for the land, and our piece of the local environment.

I see that retention and covenants benefit the wider community in a number of ways:

- It improves an area's biodiversity.
- It provides habitat for native animal species and that can benefit farming and other agricultural practices.
- Covenants ensure that remnant bushland is properly maintained and does not become a harbor for pest plants and animals.
- It provides a seed source for future vegetation projects.
- It can form a strategic link between other patches of bushland providing habitat corridors for native wildlife.

Recreating native eco-systems is so difficult to do, the best thing we can do is retain and protect what we have left. And, the best way to do this is with conservation covenants.

Conservation covenants are available through the Trust For Nature (Victoria), Department of Sustainability and Environment, and the Natural Heritage Trust.

Phillip Vaughan - East Gippsland resident and covenanter

