

## Municipal Conservation Covenants

Bushland Park has long been known and recognised for its environmental qualities and diversity of indigenous flora and fauna. Council recognised this and resolved to place a conservation covenant on the park in May 2005. The area is Council owned land and is managed by a Section 86 Committee of Management.

Bushland Park is located on the Goulburn Valley Highway, Seymour. The park covers 62 Ha and was formally part of the Old Seymour army camp. The area has been allowed to naturally regenerate over the past 20 years to establish an indigenous bushland which has very high conservation values.

In May 2012, the deed of covenant was registered on the Colin Officer Flora Reserve, Broadford.

The 13.7ha reserve was created in April 2005 as an open space contribution as part of a subdivision. The reserve is highly significant for its environmental conservation values, supporting over 105 different species of indigenous vegetation.

The conservation covenant is registered on the property title and is permanent. The agreement between Trust for Nature and Mitchell Shire is to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and or scientific values of the land.



As part of the conservation covenant, the Trust for Nature will provide Council with a detailed flora and fauna assessment of the property, a management plan and ongoing advice as part of the placement of a conservation covenant.

These initiatives could not have been possible without the support and tireless work of the Bushland Park Committee of Management, BEAM-Mitchell Environment Group, the Broadford Land Management Group, the general Mitchell Shire community and the Mitchell Shire Councillors.



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MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



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MITCHELL SHIRE.  
*Conservation Covenants*

*Shire Grant Program and Municipal Covenants*



MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL





## Council's Commitment

As part of Mitchell Shire Council's commitment to environmental management, in April 2005, Mitchell Shire Council resolved to implement an Annual Grant Program for properties with conservation covenants.

## What is a Conservation Covenant?

A conservation covenant is an agreement between a landowner and the Trust for Nature, which protects and enhances the natural, cultural and/or scientific values of the land. The covenant is registered on the property title and binds all future owners.

Conservation covenants derive from the Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972. They have the force of statute, and should be distinguished from common law covenants.

Unlike common law covenants which can be amended, conservation covenants are permanent.



Factors taken into account when considering a natural area for the purposes of a conservation covenant include:

- > It's degree of disturbance
- > The diversity of native flora and fauna
- > Whether there are rare and endangered species
- > Its value as a buffer or wildlife corridor
- > The size and shape of the area
- > The presence of weeds or vermin
- > Themangementrequiredtomaintaintheecological integrity of the site

Each covenant is unique. Some covenants cover all of the property, some cover only part of the property.

## Why Offer a Grant?

Mitchell Shire Council sees the conservation covenant grant program as an opportunity to contribute to the Protection of native biodiversity in the Shire and recognise the community benefits of biodiversity, by acknowledging individuals for taking a role within the community.

## How Much Money if Granted?

The grant is calculated at \$20/ha for area of covenanted land with a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$500 per covenant.



## Council Support

The implementation of a grant program for land under conservation covenants is supported by the key objective of the Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2004- 2008:

“A commitment to be environmentally responsible”

and Action 1.55 of the Mitchell Shire Environment Strategy (2008);

“Investigate offering a rate rebate specifically for land covered by a conservation covenant”.

For further information contact the Environment Unit at Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200 or visit Trust for Natures website at [www.trustfornature.org.au](http://www.trustfornature.org.au).

There is currently over 1700ha of covenanted land in Mitchell Shire.

