

Rural landholders

A groundswell of support is growing among rural landholders for formal protection of special natural areas on their properties through conservation covenants. In Queensland a Nature Refuge Landholders Association has been established. The national Reserve System now includes rural properties with covenants on the title to protect high conservation value areas.

The main covenanting projects funded by the national Reserve System programme are the Grass, Heath, Woodland and Southern Shallop projects in Queensland and the Protected Areas on Private Land project in Tasmania.

Queensland has other covenanting programs that also qualify for the national Reserve System if covenants are perpetual and long-term management for conservation can be assured.

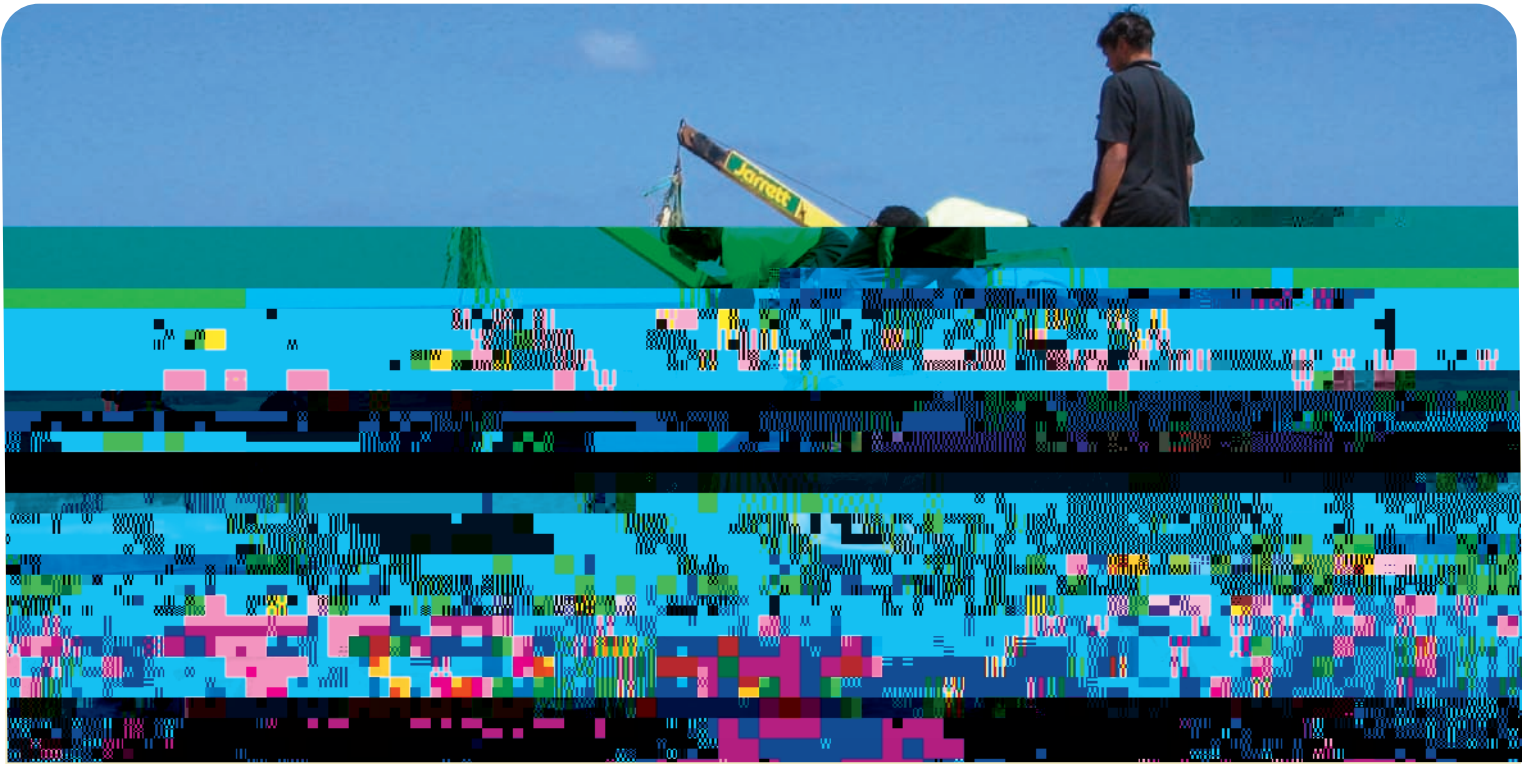
Landholders may also get tax incentives for conservation covenants. Limited livestock grazing may be permitted on some covenanted areas provided it does not detract from conservation objectives.

“There is a huge number of species there and the environment really hasn't changed much at all. So as I was going to do pretty well nothing with it, except for limited grazing, I thought it best to try to put into the State system or the national system.”

ROD

Conservancies

The Australian private conservation sector has undergone rapid growth due in large part to the stimulus of Australian government grants provided under the National Reserve



Indigenous communities

• In national parks are now owned by indigenous traditional owners and leased to Australian or state governments under joint management arrangements

• However the fastest growing tenure is in Indigenous Protected Areas. As entirely owned and managed for conservation by original and smaller community councils or land trusts and established through management agreements