

Lurg to North East Foothills Connections

Project Overview

The Lurg Hills provide an important ecological corridor linking the Warby Ranges and Winton Wetlands in the west to the foothills of the vast North East forests to the East. The *Lurg Hills to Foothills Connections* project aims to build on significant work that has been undertaken over many years in the Lurg Hills area to improve and reconnect significant Box Ironbark habitat primarily for the Regent Honeyeater and other threatened species. The connection to the foothills is somewhat fragmented but there are sufficient remnants in place to re-establish connectivity corridors and improve habitat condition. This project provides a strategic opportunity to widely enhance the area that links these ecosystems.

This project will result in strengthening connectivity conservation from the biodiversity revegetation and recovery stronghold of Lurg through to the North East Foothills; adding to a landscape scale conservation network that is developing from the Warby Ranges through Winton wetlands to the North East foothills and alps.

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the connectivity conservation values of the landscape connecting the Lurg Hills to the North East foothills. Within the landscape linking the Regent Honeyeater project area to the North East foothills this will be achieved through:

- Identifying appropriate Connectivity Conservation corridors ;
- Assessing habitat condition and work with landowners to improve the condition of remnant vegetation;
- Reducing woody weeds particularly along riparian corridors
- Reducing fox numbers
- Installing nest boxes
- Working with landowners to revegetate areas to enhance remnant vegetation blocks and establish corridors;

Within the landscape of both the Regent Honeyeater area and the linkage to the North East Forests,

- Permanently protect through covenants areas of remnant vegetation and revegetation that provide important linkages.
- The project has been funded through the Victorian State government through the Biodiversity Response Planning program

Taungurung Clans involvement

The Taungurung clans Indigenous Corporation has an environmental works crew. It will be one of the contractors involved in the project to undertake weed control in the project area. The Taungurung clans are interested in investigating any culture heritage that landholders may have on their properties.

Please contact Shane Monk Taungurung clans for further information on shanem@gbcma.vic.gov.au.

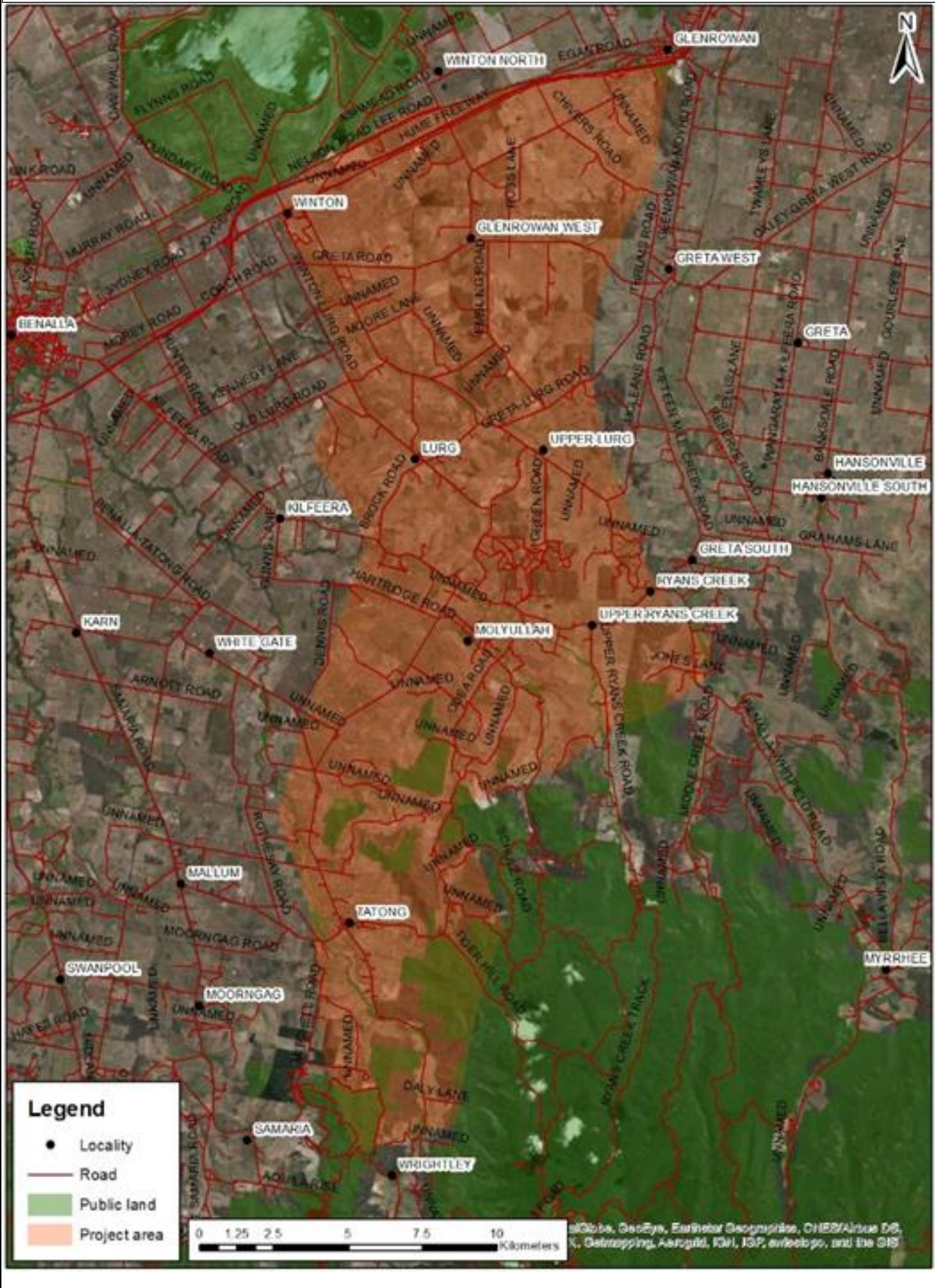


Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



TRUST FOR
NATURE

Lurg to North East Foothills Connections Project Core Area



Project Milestones

Year 1 Project Milestone	Delivery organisation	Completion Date
Landscape Plan Design :high priority sites for covenants and onground works identified	Trust for Nature	30/06/2019
Fox baiting at selected sites over 1000ha area	Trust for Nature	30/06/2019
Weed control at selected sites over 1000ha area	Trust for Nature	30/06/2019
Year 2 Project Milestone	Delivery Organisation	Completion Date
4ha revegetation	Regent Honey Eater Project	30/06/2020
2 ha revegetation	Molyullah/Tatong Landcare	30/06/2020
Weed control at selected sites over a 2000 ha area	Trust for Nature	30/06/2020
Fox baiting at selected sites over a 2000 ha area	Trust for Nature	30/06/2020
20 ha covenant with management plan	Trust for Nature	30/06/2020
Year 3 Project milestone	Delivery Organisation	Completion Date
40 ha covenant with management plan	Trust for Nature	30/06/2021
Weed control at selected sites over a 2000ha area	Trust for Nature	30/06/2021
Fox baiting at selected sites over a 2000ha area	Trust for Nature	30/06/2021
3ha revegetation	Molyullah/Tatong Landcare	30/06/2021
5ha revegetation	Regent Honey Eater Project	30/06/2021

Trust for Nature Conservation Covenants

Trust for Nature is a private-land conservation organisation that has been working with landowners since 1972 to protect Victoria's native plants and wildlife, forever.

A conservation covenant is a voluntary, yet legally binding agreement made between a private landowner and Trust for Nature. Its purpose is to permanently conserve and protect the natural, cultural or scientific values of the land. Once agreed, the covenant is registered on a property's certificate of title.

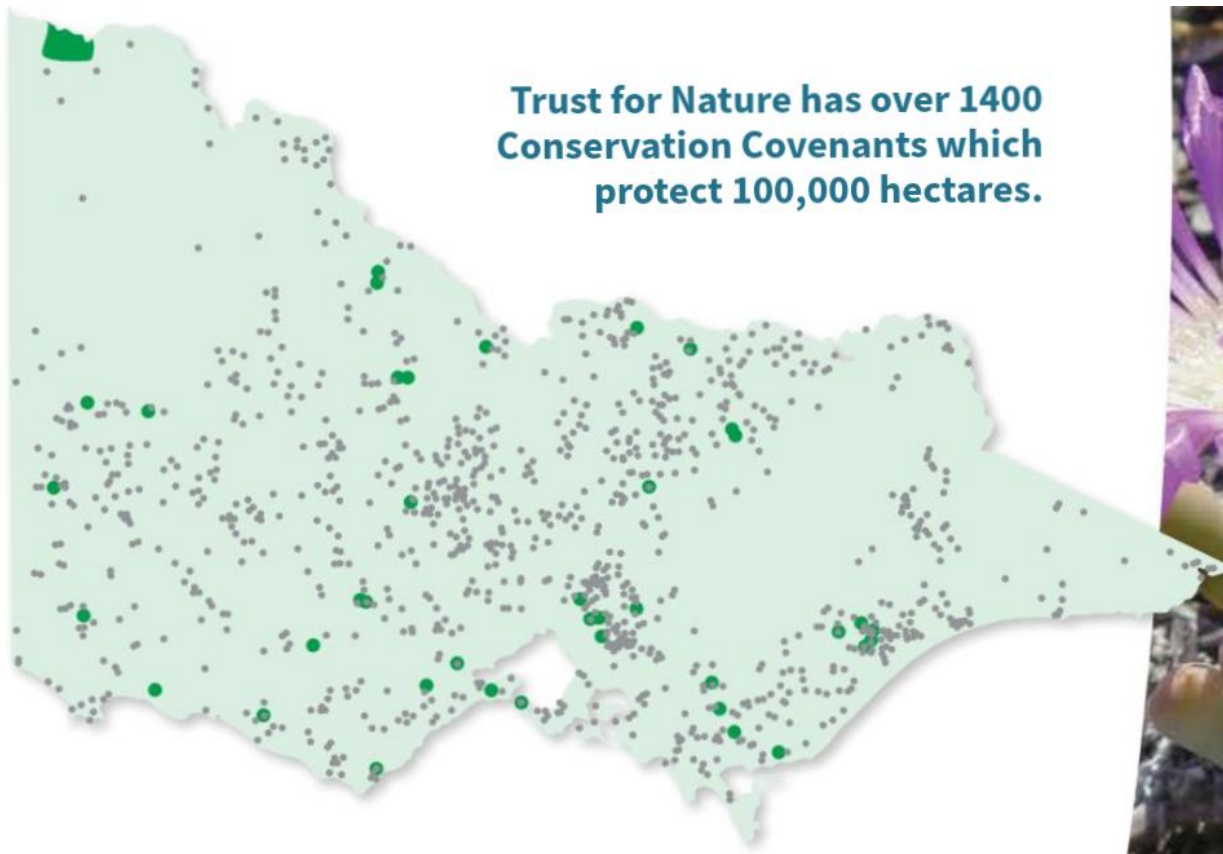
If the property is sold, the covenant transfers with the title and becomes the responsibility of the new owner. Once a covenant is in place, Trust for Nature helps landowners to better manage their land through its Stewardship Program.

How does a conservation covenant work?

A conservation covenant defines a set of conditions and rights for a particular property in relation to future landuse activities, with the aim of protecting and improving the quality of the natural features for generations to come. A set of conditions can be negotiated individually with a landowner to ensure that their wishes and the needs of the land are clearly defined.

Once agreed, the conditions and rights are permanently written into the deed of covenant and future owners are obliged to meet the conditions. Trust for Nature works with landowners to ensure they have access to information and assistance for appropriate land management through the Trust's Stewardship Program. Depending on the wishes of a landowner, a covenant can protect all or part of a property.

Trust for Nature has over 1400 Conservation Covenants which protect 100,000 hectares.



- Over 1400 Conservation Covenants
- Trust for Nature properties/reserves



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For more information go to <http://www.trustfornature.org.au/>

Please ring or send information in the form below to Shelagh Curmi from Trust for Nature shelaghc@tfn.org.au or 0407 521 154

Name	Address	Phone	email	Weed control	Fox control,	Comments