Conservation Covenant Signage Policy

This policy provides practical guidance for signage identifying conservation covenant properties

June 2026

Private Land Conservation Program
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Tasmanian Government

Background

This policy provides practical guidance for signage identifying conservation covenant properties.

The covenant agreement and nature conservation plan for conservation covenant properties require that landowners make others aware of the covenant boundaries. This is so that people are informed about the existence of the covenant and do not inadvertently undertake activities that will impact the natural values of the property.

While having signage identifying the covenant area is not mandatory it is recommended as a means of making others aware of covenant boundaries. Using the supplied conservation covenant signs provides landowners an ability to signal nature conservation in a practical and consistent way and is a cost-effective approach to identifying conservation covenant boundaries.

Some landowners are particularly proud of their covenant property and want to have a sign on their front gate or prominent boundaries. Others choose not to have a public sign on their front gate but may have "Private Property" signs on other access routes to the covenant area. This is often to discourage trespass and other activities including wood theft and illegal trail bike access.

The first conservation covenants were established in 1998, and there are now close to 1,000 covenant properties. Over the years, there have been multiple different covenanting programs, each with different program-specific signage. As signs deteriorate with age/UV exposure and properties change hands, there is an ongoing need to provide new property signs. This policy applies for new conservation covenant properties, and for existing properties where landowners request new signage.

Objective

This policy is intended to provide guidance for consistent property signage for covenants established under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, as well as the older covenants established under the N*ational Parks and Wildlife Act 1970.*

The signage policy applies to

- voluntary conservation covenants
- covenants required by external regulators under offset arrangements
- covenants used for compliance purposes under a range of Acts
- covenants created under market mechanisms.

The signage policy provides guidance for landowners, government employees, philanthropy organisations, external regulators, natural resource management organisations and funding bodies.

The signage policy provides a consistent and transparent reference for all parties involved with supplying and installing signage identifying conservation covenant properties.

Conservation area signage

- The sign in Attachment A should be used for all new conservation covenant properties and any properties requiring new or updated signage.
- The sign in Attachment A allows for inclusion of additional logos/text in the design in limited circumstances, following consultation with the Private Land Conservation Program.
- The following circumstances are NOT appropriate for logo/text inclusion:
    - Specific projects or sub-programs being delivered through Tasmanian Government funding; these can be acknowledged with the Tasmanian Government logo that is already incorporated in the design.
    - Consultant or contractor paid for aspects of covenant development.
    - Third party arrangements between a funding body and a consultant or contractor paid for aspects of covenant development.
- Note that there should be careful consideration of including a logo from a Commonwealth program and/or department. It is important to clarify the circumstances for which Commonwealth ministerial approval will be required for variation i.e. Section 35(2) of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* applies. *Section 35 (2): If a conservation covenant so provides, it is not capable of being varied or discharged without the prior consent of the Crown in the right of the Commonwealth.*

Signage to deter illegal access

- The Private Land Conservation Program can provide “Protected Area” signage shown in Attachment B.
- Landowners can install their own signage to deter illegal access to their property.

Recommendations for installation of signs

- Signs are available through the Private Land Conservation Program

  privatelandconservation@nre.tas.gov.au
- Signs can be displayed in a range of locations to communicate the existence of the covenant property, including front gates, boundary fences, prominent posts and trees.
- Placement of signs should ensure they cannot easily be damaged or removed.
- Installation of signs should not damage any natural features e.g. wires around trees which may cause ringbarking.

Version history

Approved by the General Manager Environment May 2026.

Attachment A: : Conservation covenant property sign

Notes:

- Colours are muted with the intention of being visible but not obtrusive in a natural setting.
- The sign is designed for digital printing on aluminium composite panels which are light weight and rigid. It is printed at 340 mm x 340 mm with holes for securing placement with wire, nails or cable ties.
- Featured species (silver banksia and yellow-throated honeyeater) are widespread and common across Tasmania, making the sign appropriate for use on all properties, ranging from coastal, farm, and mountain properties across all parts of Tasmania.
- The yellow-throated honeyeater (*Lichenostomus flavicollis*) is an endemic Tasmanian species occurring on mainland Tasmania as well as off-shore islands. It is found in a range of habitats, including wet and dry forests, woodlands, sub-alpine forests, temperate rainforest, wet scrubs and coastal heathlands. The yellow-throated honeyeater reflects that some covenants protect values that are uniquely Tasmanian.
- The silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) occurs throughout much of south-east Australia, including Tasmania reflecting that some covenants protect values that are important across Australia.

Attachment B: Keep Out sign

Tasmanian Government

Contact

For further information please contact the
Private Land Conservation Program

Email: **privatelandconservation@nre.tas.gov.au**

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