


## COUNCIL POLICY

Rate Incentives for Conservation and Land Management	<b>Adopted By Council:</b>	15/08/06	
	<b>Date/s Revised:</b>	18/10/11	
	<b>Next Review Date:</b>	05/14	
	<b>Document No:</b>	CP019	
	<b>Directorate:</b>	Governance & Community	
	<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Senior Planner/Rates Coordinator	

### CONTEXT

This policy has been developed to further demonstrate Council's commitment to protecting and preserving remnant flora and fauna and to promote the use of sustainable land management practices within the Borough of Queenscliffe.

There are many residential areas within the Borough where substantial vegetation cover, rather than built form, is the dominant visual and environmental feature, and accordingly substantial Local Planning Provisions such as Vegetation Protection Overlays and Environmental Significance Overlays apply.

The aim of this rate incentive is not to compensate landholders for lost landuse opportunities; but rather, to provide a contribution to the costs of meeting the community's conservation expectations.

### POLICY

1. To be eligible, property owners must enter into an agreement with the Trust for Nature (Trust for Nature Conservation Covenant) which will be negotiated privately between the property owner and the Trust.

A conservation covenant is a voluntary agreement between the landowner and the Trust for Nature. The covenant is registered on the title and binds all future owners of the land to manage the protected land in accordance with the covenant. The agreement will take into account individual circumstances and property management objectives. The process for registering a covenant is entirely free to landowners.

2. Council will offer the incentive in the form of a 100% rate rebate on covenant areas 1 hectare or greater. All other property area(s) will be rated separately and charged general/commercial rates and charges accordingly.

Property owners with smaller areas of land will be considered on a case by case basis based on the properties unique environmental value.

3. Property owners must actively continue ongoing native vegetation management, weed and vermin control and fire prevention in accordance with the Trust for Nature Stewardship Program and Council policies and regulations.
4. Properties participating in this scheme will be subject to annual site inspections by Council Officer(s) to ensure that the conditions of the scheme are being met.

### OTHER REFERENCES

[www.trustfornature.org.au](http://www.trustfornature.org.au)

END