

MEDIA RELEASE

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Conservation real estate a thriving business

A leading conservation organisation is defying the tough economic times and buying up large rural properties across NSW.

The Nature Conservation Trust of NSW has recently purchased three agricultural properties because it wants to safeguard natural heritage on private land.

The properties are *Hartwood Station* near Conargo, *Carwell Station* near Quambone, and *Stanley*, located in the Macquarie Marshes.

"We bought these properties because we're interested in achieving conservation outcomes and sustainable agriculture production," explained the Nature Conservation Trust's Revolving Fund Manager, Mr Nigel Strutt.

"We want to demonstrate that sound land management can maintain suitable habitats for plant and animal species, support the regeneration of ecologically endangered communities and provide the basis for a sustainable agricultural enterprise."

The Nature Conservation Trust buys and sells properties of high conservation value. It protects and manages each property to maintain and improve its conservation and agricultural assets and then sells it to a supportive new owner with a covenant attached.

The Nature Conservation Trust plans to continue to allow irrigation, cropping or running livestock in conjunction with the conservation agreement that applies to each of the three newly acquired properties.

"In setting up these conservation agreements we also undertake works that will enhance native vegetation, such as fencing for better grazing management of the native pastures", said Mr Strutt.

The organisation has appointed highly regarded station managers to run its new properties from an agricultural and conservation perspective. Tony McManus, formally of 'Toorale Station' near Bourke will manage *Carwell Station* and *Stanley* and Richard Walker, formally of 'Euroka' at Conargo, will manage *Hartwood Station*.

"In every area where the Nature Conservation Trust purchases a property, it seeks to interact with and support the local community. We prefer to utilise businesses local to each property to assist us in our improvements works," concluded Nigel Strutt.

For more information about purchasing or selling a property call the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW on (02) 6365 7543 or visit www.nct.org.au.

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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