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Conservation Milestone a Bega Valley Shire First

Concerns over the preservation of some 30 hectares of their land prompted local landholders, Russ and Lorraine McGowan, to apply for a Conservation Property Vegetation Plan (PVP). The agreement is the first of its kind in the Bega Valley Shire.

The McGowans' land encompasses over 30 hectares of forested land, with several locally significant vegetation communities, threatened flora and fauna in addition to remnant gallery rainforest along Desert Creek adjacent to South East National Park.

A Conservation PVP is a legally binding document that is tied to the title of the property and designed to ensure good conservation and land management outcomes in perpetuity. The process involves fieldwork, consultation and negotiation with the landowner. The McGowans' PVP agreement is actually two agreements, one with Russ and Lorraine over their freehold land and another, jointly held with the Department of Lands, over a leasehold section of the property.

"The PVP process is a boon to landholders who wish to conserve remnant habitat on their property. A Conservation PVP is a quicker and simpler option than a voluntary conservation agreement, and I urge people to consider one for their property," said Brett Miners, Landscape Manager, Southern Rivers CMA.

"I would like to congratulate the McGowans on their land management decisions throughout the PVP process and for being the first to do so in the Bega Valley," he added.

This Bega Valley Shire first was celebrated with a morning tea on site where the McGowans were presented with a Conservation PVP sign to display on their property.

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The McGowans believe that the benefits of their Conservation PVP are numerous.

"We would like to thank the staff at the Southern Rivers CMA Bega office for their support and balanced approach in managing the native vegetation on our landholding. We feel we have benefited personally as well as having contributed to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Bega Valley, and encourage other landholders to consider applying for a PVP," said Lorraine McGowan.

Southern Rivers CMA staff is friendly, knowledgeable and can help landowners better understand, manage and conserve the bushland on their properties.

People considering a Conservation PVP or who want more information should contact Laura Babian or Liz Clark at Southern Rivers CMA's Bega office on 02 6491 8200.

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Image: L-R Laura Babian Southern Rivers CMA, Liz Clark Southern Rivers CMA, Lorraine and Russ McGowan and Justin Gouvernet Southern Rivers CMA celebrate Bega Valley's first Conservation PVP agreement.

Media contacts:

Brett Miners
Landscape Manager, Snowy/South Coast
Southern Rivers CMA
Telephone: 02 6452 1455
Mobile: 0427 346 263

Laura Fragiaco
Public Relations and Media Officer
Southern Rivers CMA
Telephone: (02) 4224 9707
Mobile: 0429 461 779