



Sustaining Landcare

Information Sheet

Many Hands, One Voice
Wanda Wanda One Voice

Under the NSW Government's **2015-2019 Landcare Support Program** (\$15 million funding) the NSW Government and Landcare NSW established three elements to underpin our long term future:

1. The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative – a network of 66 part-time Local Coordinators hosted by community organisations to support volunteer activity across NSW.
2. A 'Community of Practice' – providing community Landcare with information, training and examples and support for best practice.
3. *Sustaining Landcare* – a project to develop a sustainable funding model for long term support of the volunteer effort.

A sustainable funding model is needed for the structures which support Landcare groups. This will enable volunteers to concentrate on carrying out activities that benefit the environment, agriculture and local communities: the reason they became involved in Landcare in the first place.

Just as Surf Life Saving, Rural Fire Service or State Emergency Service need professional support to allow them to focus on the important work they do as volunteers, so too does Landcare.

A strength of Landcare is that over its 27-year history, in NSW around 60,000 volunteers have organised into more than 3000 local groups that are supported by regional Landcare organisations. This is a true grassroots movement. As the Landcare movement matures and grows in independence, it is looking to develop a more diverse and sustainable funding source.

Sustaining Landcare recognises that the current NSW Government funding program is finite and that by 2019, a planned transition to a sustainable model to support the work of volunteer Landcare groups is necessary.

This project, which is being managed by Landcare NSW, and supported by a Steering Committee, will research appropriate models to secure and manage on-going funding. It will address important issues such as governance, potential funding sources, application of funds and management of the fund.

At the heart of this initiative is Landcare NSW's vision:

To create a viable and resilient Landcare community contributing as a valued partner to a range of community, natural resource management and agricultural outcomes.

Landcare NSW is a representative state peak body which is governed by its members. *Sustaining Landcare* is planned to occur in four phases: the first is to deliver a review of options and propose a model to NSW Government by July 2016. The focus will then move to implementation.

The project is collaborative in nature and seeks the input of valued stakeholders, in particular Landcare members, community leaders, philanthropists, government and industry.

The Landcare community's involvement in this initiative is crucial to its success. Services provided by Landcare volunteers across the State will be required for the foreseeable future. Funding to support the valuable role they play cannot be short term or ad hoc, it requires a long term vision and sustainability. *Sustaining Landcare* seeks to define the value of Landcare's contribution, not only to agriculture and the environment but to the health of our local communities. The goal is to identify mechanisms whereby a wider range of partners fund Landcare support into the future.

Consultation is underway with Landcare and interested groups and individuals. The goal is to research and canvass a range of ideas in relation to key principles such as how to draw upon support from within Landcare membership itself, ongoing Federal, State and Local Government involvement, the role of private philanthropy and mechanisms for community and corporate fundraising.

For more information please email: sustaininglandcare@landcarensw.org.au

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