

## Landcare NSW Incorporated

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*Many Hands, One Voice*  
*Wanda Howard One Voice*

## MEDIA RELEASE

### LANDCARE RE-ENERGISED AS NEW LOCAL COORDINATORS GET TO WORK

Most of the 66 Landcare Coordinators funded under the NSW Government's Landcare Policy are now on the ground working with local communities.

On 10 May Landcare leaders gathered at Parliament House at a function hosted by the cross-party NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare to discuss the important work Landcare does for the benefit of agriculture, conservation and local communities.

The 66 Landcare Coordinator positions are funded under the NSW Government's \$15m Landcare Policy 2015-2019. Already they have been a catalyst for renewed activity – leveraging additional funding and bringing volunteers back into Landcare.

Mr Rob Dulhunty, Chairman, Landcare NSW, said, "Already we are seeing renewed activity around the State, with dormant groups beginning to bloom.

"For instance Liverpool Plains Land Management Inc. came together recently to develop a new strategic plan. For several years the group has had virtually no resources and had become inactive, despite having been a very robust and active group in the past."

The strengthened network of Local Landcare Coordinators is able to respond to local priorities as well as state policies, grant programs and partnership opportunities.

For example, the recently released biodiversity reforms mean Government must engage with the private landholders who are responsible for more than 70 percent of land in NSW.

"Landholders and local communities are the key to changing practices to protect the environment while ensuring productive agriculture," said Mr Dulhunty.

Landcare is a trusted institution that farmers and individuals turn to for information and advice. It provides a proven method for all community members to participate in activities to achieve sustainable agriculture and environmental protection.

"Landcare's genesis was a meeting of the minds between farmers and conservationists and that remains a core value. It's crucial for Landcare to be involved in discussions about these major reforms to biodiversity protection," said Mr Dulhunty.

Landcare NSW is organising a series of workshops from May to August to create a forum for information and discussion on the Biodiversity reforms.

These are being organised by Landcare NSW with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust and will be hosted by Landcare regional networks. They will provide an opportunity for Landcarers to learn about the Government's reforms, showcase best practice and build relationships.

"We look forward to exploring what role Landcare can play in partnership with government and other organisations." said Mr Dulhunty

The Government's Landcare policy 2015-2019 is being delivered through a partnership between Landcare NSW and Local Land Services.

The NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFL) is a cross-party group of NSW Members of Parliament who have a common interest in demonstrating support for the goals of Landcare.

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