



Version 2 - as amended March 2016 in response to JMC decision meeting #8

Joint Management Committee

Addendum to the Landcare LLS Memorandum of Understanding for the New South Wales Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative.

Purpose:

This addendum sets out the high level objectives and management of the New South Wales (NSW) Government commitment of \$15m over four years to the NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative. To ensure the delivery of this program occurs in the spirit of the Landcare Local Land Service Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), and supports the implementation of aims articulated in the MOU. The program is to be jointly managed by Landcare NSW (LNSW) and Local Land Services in a partnership of shared responsibility. This addendum establishes a framework for the programs accountability and identifies individual responsibilities vs joint/collaborative responsibilities, with reference to the advice provided to the Minister Primary Industries from the Natural Resource Commission¹. Specific program deliverables are beyond the scope of the addendum but will be articulated in the Business/Implementation Plan developed for the program.

Background:

The program is an election commitment of the Baird Government, following the “Sustaining Landcare” campaign led by Landcare NSW Inc (LNSW) and supported by Landcare groups across NSW. The \$15million over four year commitment falls within the programs managed by Local Land Services (LLS), with the design and delivery of the program undertaken collaboratively by LNSW & LLS. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) held two roundtables to gain input from both parties to provide advice to the Minister on the scope and delivery of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative. A further two day workshop was facilitated by Michael Williams and Associates to determine the governance and relationship requirements to collaboratively manage the program.

Key Program Components:

The NSW Government has provided a \$15 million commitment over four years to “renew the government - community relationship, and unlock the full potential of the thousands of volunteers in the Landcare network”². The initiative will do this by:

- Delivering a network of locally-based co-ordinators who will work with local Landcare groups to deliver strategically aligned programs as well as providing support and guidance.
- Provision of a centralised support team that will increase the activity and effectiveness of the Landcare network through a consistent approach to building community capacity across the State.
- Facilitating the transition towards financial stability of the Landcare network, enabling the volunteer effort to be supported well into the future.

¹ NRC Advice to Primary industries Minister – Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative Document No: D15/1385 June 2015

² As per Letter from Deputy Premier Troy Grant to Chair LNSW dated 16 March 2015.

Governance:

The program is managed collaboratively by LLS and LNSW under a Joint Management Committee (JMC), which is co-chaired by the Chair of Chairs LLS and the Chair of LNSW, and reports directly to the Minister for Primary Industries. Members of the JMC for this project include the Executive Officers of LLS and LNSW, with input from the key positions funded under the program - the LLS Landcare Program Manager, and the LNSW State Landcare Coordinator. Delegates may fulfil the role of committee members however it is required that the delegate is at a senior level within either organisation and that the delegate is approved by the committee members.

Representatives from DPI, OEH and Local Government may be invited to participate and share knowledge.

The JMC will meet monthly during the design and development phase of the program (July 2015-December 2015), and meet quarterly for the remainder of the program. Meetings may be face to face or by teleconference.

The roles and responsibilities for the JMC include:

- Oversight the development of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative in a manner that addresses the outcome as identified by the NRC in its advice to the Minister of Primary Industries
- Approves a monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan for the program to the Minister and the community
- Monitoring the achievement of milestones as identified in the Implementation plan for the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative.
- Review the LLS Landcare relationship against the MoU, and determine any actions required, utilizing the resources of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative where appropriate, so as to strengthen partnerships between Landcare and LLS (at the State and Regional scale)
- Responsible for ensuring LLS partnership with Landcare and community is functioning as per the MoU.
- Provide oversight of adaptive management of the program to take advantage of opportunities and address issues that occur over the four year life of the program
- Standing agenda items include :
 - Overall program management.
 - Coordinators and Community of Practice.
 - Landcare Future Fund.
 - Government strategic directions, including biodiversity legislation reforms.
 - Program evaluation, adaptive management, audits and research.
 - Accountability of program against program purpose and MoU.

Administration & Reporting

Delivery will be via an approved project plan developed collaboratively by LLS and LNSW. The plan will include agreed MERI and KPIs that meet both Landcare and LLS needs, and an agreed communication and engagement strategy (addressing both internal and external needs).

LLS will undertake program level administration, budgeting, contract management, MERI, and governance support, with assistance and support from LNSW.

Program activities undertaken by LNSW will be determined under the Implementation plan for the program and under a contract negotiated with LLS, with assistance and support from LNSW.

Implementation Plan for the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative:

The program has two phases: Development and Establishment Phase (July 2015 to December 2015) and an Implementation Phase (January 2015 to June 2019).

Phase 1: Development and Establishment (July 2015 - December 2015)

A RACIO framework has been developed to identify key tasks and responsibilities for this phase. Broadly it includes the following.

Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative, April, 2016

Local Landcare Coordinators

A network of locally-based coordinators will work with local Landcare groups and networks to deliver strategically-aligned programs, as well as providing support and guidance. Their goal will be to build capacity and connections within local communities to produce on-ground change.

Landcare Community of Practice

Transitional support will be provided to the community through the following activities:

- Gateway website – The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Landcare NSW will maintain the site.
- Database – Landcare NSW will continue to collect information from groups while long-term database arrangements are finalised.
- Member Services – Landcare NSW will continue to support public enquiries and provide governance advice.

Landcare Future Fund Initiative

Establish project specific steering committee with required expertise to create mechanisms for a self-sustaining Landcare model that is entrepreneurial and supports Landcare volunteers, employees and state support functions.

Phase 2: Implementation (January 2015 - June 2019).

The Implementation plan will be developed during Phase 1 and outline the activities to be undertaken in Phase 2. A The RACIO framework will be developed to identify key tasks and responsibilities for this phase.

Landcare Community of Practice

Over this period, input to be sought from the Landcare community about the services that is most appropriate. It is anticipated that the following activities will be developed and supported:

- Communications – including Gateway website
- Data collection from the Landcare community for monitoring and evaluation purposes
- Member support, including advice on governance, incorporation, insurance etc.
- Regional and State forums and activities
- Training events for the Local Landcare Coordinators
- Training events for networks and groups.