



*Are you aware that funding for the **NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative ends in June 2019**? With the help of Local Land Services and the NSW Government, we are diversifying funding streams to underpin Landcare support into the future. For the LLCI to continue to support your Local Coordinators **we need an allocation in the 2018 State Budget**. The aim of **Sustaining Landcare - The Next Chapter** is to make the case for continued State Government support.*

We are also working to secure the best outcomes for Landcare out of the National Landcare Program 2. To do this we need to work closely with LLS in the regions and convey our views to the Federal Government.

It's through local action our message will be heard. As our slogan states: Many Hands, One Voice!

Sustaining Landcare Q&A

Why do we need an allocation in the 2018 Budget?

The Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative is funded till 30 June 2019. An allocation in the 2018 State Budget means Landcarers can be confident of a seamless transition for the program into the next four year period. Landcarers need funding certainty to maintain the momentum that has been achieved through the NSW Government's support of the LLCI.

Why are we asking for \$32.5 million

That is what is needed to fund the infrastructure and services Landcare needs to operate. Like any volunteer community movement, Landcare needs paid professional staff, systems and services.

With potential reductions in the other funding streams for Landcare support eg changes in the National Landcare Program and potentially less money coming from LLS via NSW Catchment Action funds, it's critical that Landcare support funding is secured.

The amount of \$32.5m over four years will allow for the deployment and support of 4.5 EFT of Local Coordinators per region (average), and 11 regional positions. It will fund the essential program management requirements, and service the needs of the Landcare community through the maintenance of the Gateway website and a suite of member services aimed to increase the connectedness and capacity of the community. It also includes resourcing for Aboriginal Landcare engagement in response to this being a major priority identified during the current phase of the program.

What do Coordinators do?

Local Landcare Coordinators do the leg work and facilitation that is the backbone of Landcare eg, attracting volunteers, brokering, partnering, applying for grants, supporting volunteer committees, setting up new groups, filling in reports, collecting data, making connections, leveraging additional

money to complement government grants, working with landholders, building social capital, providing information and raising awareness. With support from Regional Coordinators and a small central hub, they build and maintain the infrastructure that enables the volunteers and farmers to participate in Landcare.

How is Landcare NSW contributing to the costs of running Landcare?

Landcare NSW is committed to diversifying our funds so we do not have to rely on Government to meet all our funding needs. We are building our organisational capability with the assistance of the NSW Government and we are making progress to implement the changes necessary to increase our self-reliance.

Why should the NSW Government fund Landcare support?

The Landcare community views the NSW Government as its primary partner and values the support and funding provided over the past three years. We provide access to a volunteer community movement of more than 3000 groups and 60,000 volunteers. A relatively small investment from the Government enables the community to leverage additional resources and achieve positive outcomes for sustainable agriculture, conservation and local communities.

What is the Federal Government's responsibility?

The Federal Government provides funds to protect natural resources. Recently the Government announced the next iteration of their funding program which starts this year. It is important to note that even though the Federal Government's initiative is called the National Landcare Program (NLP), these funds do not necessarily go to the volunteer Landcare community. The Government uses the word 'Landcare' to refer to natural resource management. However, Landcare is actually the model and activities of the grassroots community movement. This has created confusion with people thinking community Landcare is the recipient of the NLP funds. Landcare NSW is asking the Federal Government to ensure a substantial proportion of NLP funds reach local community Landcare organisations and groups.

Please feel free to contact us any time with queries or comments:

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