



## Sustaining Landcare

Update 21 August 2018

- The Landcare community says \$32.5m over four years commencing July 2019 is needed to build on the platform created by the NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative (LLCI) and continue the momentum of rebuilding Landcare in NSW
- A properly-funded Landcare support program is critical for communities and farmers
- Landcare is in the front line of sustainable agriculture, conservation and building social capital – especially relevant in the face of drought and environmental challenges
- Without paid staff and support, the voluntary Landcare community cannot function
- Landcare NSW is committed to working through the detail of what is required in partnership with the NSW Government
- Landcare NSW has received strong support from the NSW Government and values the partnership with the Government, Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries, Environmental Trust, Office of Environment and Heritage, Biodiversity Conservation Trust and other agencies
- The message from the Landcare community on the ground is the Landcare support program needs to be properly funded to fulfil potential and meet increasing demand for information, support and direction on how to tackle local issues, whilst building the capacity of volunteer groups
- Landcare needs an integrated support system with a central coordination team and people on the ground working as part of a statewide network to support landholders, volunteers and community groups

- On-ground Landcarers say at least 4.5 EFT Local Coordinators are needed per LLS region, equating to an increase from 30 to 50 EFT Local Landcare Coordinators to build on the investment of the current program and allow for evolving the role to deliver on other state government priorities
- Regional positions are needed in each of the 11 LLS regions, based in community Landcare organisations. These positions exist in Victoria and were part of Landcare's proposal to the State Government in 2014. They are the link between the Local Coordinators and the central team and will help strengthen the partnership with Local Land Services. They support and organise learning via Community of Practice models and connect groups, volunteers, communities and landholders to respond to local issues and State Government priorities. They leverage additional resources and identify the synergies to assist the network to deliver effectively and efficiently with other partners.
- The next phase of the program needs to fund the development and implementation of a strategy to build engagement and partnerships between Landcare and Aboriginal people at all levels. This has been a high priority for Landcare and Aboriginal people, groups and communities already working with Landcare to consciously incorporate the Aboriginal perspective into Landcare's governance structures and practices.
- Engaged and capable local communities will be able to achieve more outcomes in sustainable and productive agriculture, conservation and social capital.
- These are also jobs that are greatly valued by rural and regional communities.