

# Landcare NSW Inc

## Chairman's Report 2017



**Nov 2017**

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This year at Landcare NSW is one that has given me significant pride as Chairman, with the incredible achievements of the grassroots Landcare community in NSW and also the direction forged by Landcare NSW.

With our new Strategic Plan ready to deliver, we look back on the considerable achievements of our past 10 years and how we can continue to build on the fantastic work started by Landcare NSW in 2007. We have gained significant momentum from the tireless work of the Landcare NSW Councillors, our small band of dedicated staff, and the broader involvement of the Landcare community. I cannot thank them enough for their input, effort and support across the past 12 months.

Landcare NSW is guided by the input of the most important members of Landcare – those “on the ground” – through the recent Muster, the input of your regional representatives, and your involvement in the activities of Landcare NSW. We work on your behalf, we represent your views, we seek resourcing to underpin your operations and communicate to a number of government initiatives and other sources to improve the access of Landcare groups to the funding that enables your on-ground activities.

The Parliamentary Friends of Landcare continues to maintain an active role in the development and progress of Landcare in NSW. In May this year we held a highly successful event at the North Sydney Coal Loader and in November our ‘Trees in the House’ event at Parliament House. This has given Parliamentary Members an opportunity to hear directly from Landcare committee members and local coordinators on the value that the government commitment is providing. I thank the executive of the Parliamentary Friends – the Hon Kevin Anderson (Chair), Mick Veitch (Deputy Chair), Jeremy Buckingham (Treasurer) and Rick Colless (Secretary).

The Sustaining Landcare project has successfully developed a membership program and much called-for insurance suitable for Landcare groups in NSW. The project has launched Landcare NSW into new funding streams including a core Landcare Supporter Program, digital lead generation with potential corporate partners and social enterprise including emerging opportunities such as the Container Deposit Scheme. The potential for corporate partnerships and key relationships with major landholders in NSW will be a focus of the next phase of the project. The project continues to explore what is needed for ensuring sustainability of the Landcare movement into the future.

Landcare NSW continues to lift its technology base ensuring a nimble organisation that supports its members through a new website, an online member portal and key operational software to support these systems.

Landcarers know that Landcare provides an enormous return on investment for the government and other investors and together we must continue to ‘tell the Landcare story’. The leverage of partner funds, ranging from the very real cash contributions of landholders, the enormous number of volunteer hours of our groups members, and donations of goods and services from local businesses at least doubles, if not quadruples, the impact of the government invested funds. Landcare NSW developed a Communications Strategy this year that guides and consolidates our strong messages about Landcare across NSW. We have implemented a range of communications initiatives and are continuing to build our expertise and action in this area to bring greater attention to the important work of Landcare in NSW.

Landcare NSW, under the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative (LLCI), now has established a program that has seen the placement of over 60 part time Local Coordinators across NSW to support local scale activities. The strength of Landcare is in its partnerships, and the LLCI has, and will continue, to place emphasis on developing partnerships at all scales. As we move towards the new age of the National Landcare Program 2 and looking beyond 2019, this will be critically important to our continued evolution.

The development of regional scale partnerships continues to be supported at the State scale through the Joint Management Committee of Landcare and Local Land Services, who not only oversee the Local Landcare Coordinator program, but who are working to enact the MOU signed between Landcare NSW and Local Land Services in September 2016. Many in Local Land Services deserve recognition for their efforts, and in particular I acknowledge the leadership of the current Chair, Richard Bull.

At the national scale Landcare NSW works through the National Landcare Network to ensure you have a voice into the heart of policy and program design and delivery. Landcare NSW continues to work with the NLN with regard to their impending merger with Landcare Australia Limited.

Landcare continues toward a stronger future for all grassroots Landcarers and their considerable efforts in caring for our land, environment and communities.

I look forward to continuing and building on the work of the past year, as together we forge a positive and lasting future for Landcare in NSW.



Rob Dulhunty  
Chair  
Landcare NSW