



17 March 2015

Landcare NSW welcomes Greens Landcare Policy

Landcare NSW welcomes the NSW Greens Landcare Policy, launched today. The policy commits to a Landcare Support Program that will provide the coordination and support necessary to enable the 60,000 strong volunteer movement to focus on projects, education and practice change at the local level.

The policy commits to a Landcare Trust generating \$7.5m pa in sustainable funding for the infrastructure that supports the volunteer movement. A network of local coordinators would be administered by an independent Landcare organisation rather than a government department.

Landcare NSW welcomes the specific commitment to an Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator and strongly supports the development of partnerships and joint projects between Landcare and Aboriginal communities.

Chairman of Landcare NSW, Mr Rob Dulhunty, said: "Landcare is a partnership between Government and community. Investment into Landcare infrastructure will help our volunteers and landholders get on with the job of restoring the environment and developing sustainable agricultural production.

Landcare NSW welcomes the Greens' recommendation for a Parliamentary Inquiry.

"Landcare has evolved over 25 years and we need to ensure the policies, structures and funding arrangements meet the needs of the volunteer movement. This is crucial given the major environmental challenges we face and the proven social, economic and environmental benefits of Landcare.

"We support a thorough and open policy discussion. We are pleased to see the political parties renewing their commitment to Landcare and we encourage cross-party support for a parliamentary inquiry," said Mr Dulhunty.

The renewal of Greens' support for Landcare will be welcomed by Landcarers, Bushcarers, Dunecarers and also the 93 percent of farmers who practise Landcare and the 73 percent of farmers who identify as belonging to the Landcare movement.

Landcare NSW looks forward to working with the incoming government and all parties regarding details of how a renewed Landcare Support Program can be administered and structured. "These decisions need to be made in partnership with the Landcare movement," said Mr Dulhunty. "We look forward to a constructive dialogue and positive relationship in which Landcare is recognised for the essential and valuable role we play.

"This funding is recognition that additional support for Landcare is needed and is not designed to replace any current arrangements. Landcare has always gained its support from a range of government, business, philanthropic and community sources and we expect this to continue.

"Landholders and community members volunteer their time and money, and take responsibility for addressing challenges in natural resource management, farm productivity and nature conservation. They will be very pleased to see their efforts formally recognised in this policy," said Mr Dulhunty. **ENDS**

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