



25 March 2015

### **Landcare NSW welcomes ALP Landcare Policy**

Landcare NSW welcomes the NSW Labor Party's *Looking After Our Land* policy which recognises Landcare's central role supporting farmers and protecting the environment.

The ALP's policy formally recognises the contribution of Landcare volunteers and carves out a role for Landcare as the "key on-ground partner in delivery".

Under the policy Landcare would have a central and formal role in the planning and delivery of on ground outcomes as identified by national, state and local plans. Funding of \$20 million would help Landcare build the organisational infrastructure needed to carry out this role.

The policy commits to local coordinators supported by a representative and professional team providing services such as professional development, policy, research, monitoring and evaluation.

Chairman of Landcare NSW, Mr Rob Dulhunty, welcomed the creation of pathways to a sustainable funding source such as a Landcare Trust and the recognition that Landcare support be delivered independently.

"Landcare is a grassroots, volunteer movement. The services needed to achieve a professional, statewide approach should be delivered by an independent Landcare organisation," he said.

"We are very pleased to see the inclusion of an initiative to facilitate Landcare's partnerships with Aboriginal communities," said Mr Dulhunty.

"The renewal of support will be well received – from the bushcare groups in urban areas to volunteers working to protect our coastline, to grazing and farming communities throughout regional and rural NSW.

"Landcare is a great Australian success story that has been adopted in more than 25 countries around the world," said Mr Dulhunty. "It has achieved fundamental changes in thinking and practice in regard to natural resource management – and built social capital in our communities.

"We are seeing a renewal of the bipartisan support for Landcare that was a feature of the initial Decade of Landcare that commenced in 1989 and this heralds an exciting time for our grassroots movement.

Landcare NSW looks forward to working with the incoming government and all political 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.

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