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MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORTING OUR TRUE GREEN ARMY - LANDCARE

The Nationals in government will provide a \$22.4 million boost to expand the highly successful *Local Landcare Co-ordinator Initiative*. The initiative has brought volunteer Landcare groups together and delivered better results for landholders, local communities and the environment.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said this funding boost will help to ensure our environment is protected for our future generations.

“The Local Landcare Co-ordinator Initiative is a highly successful program, bringing together volunteer Landcare groups to deliver better results for landholders, local communities and the environment,” Mr Barilaro said.

“While Landcare relies heavily on the generosity of volunteers, it can’t function effectively without dedicated staff running the day-to-day operations.

“Today’s announcement includes almost \$5 million to support Landcare NSW’s ongoing sustainability and oversight of the program, ensuring that 60 Local Landcare Co-ordinators can continue their valuable work.

“This funding will also allow for an expansion of the scheme, with the introduction of 11 new regional co-ordinators.”

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said Landcare is made up of volunteers right across our regional communities who are passionate about their environment.

“Many of these volunteers are our farmers who are the custodians of this land management for the greater good of us all.

“Since 2015, we have seen a resurgence in Landcare thanks to the NSW Government and this extra funding will continue to build upon the great work that has been done over the last four years.

“Landcare are the true green army – they’re on the ground, they’re knowledgeable and they’re practical.

“They’re not about slogans, bumper stickers and t-shirts - they actually get their hands dirty and make a real difference to our precious environment.

“The work they do is ensuring our environment is there for generations to come.”

Member for Dubbo and Patron of Landcare, Troy Grant said the program to improve co-ordination had reinvigorated Landcare NSW groups around the State and allowed for improved conservation of our natural resources.

“This program has resulted in better management of weeds and pests, revegetation,

protection of threatened species, stabilising of riverbanks and bush regeneration right across the State,” Mr Grant said

“Landcare in NSW is made up of 3,000 groups and more than 60,000 members, making it a massive grassroots movement attending to the land and waterways we all depend on.

“There’s been a lot of positive feedback about the co-ordinator initiative from local Landcare groups, who welcome the additional support and can see they’re part of something much bigger,” he said.

Landcare initiatives made possible by the *Local Landcare Co-ordinator Initiative* include:

- Enhancing food supply for koalas by planting 900 trees around Bingara
- Organising drought workshops in areas such as Coonamble and Hay
- Clearing rubbish that threatened the viability of oyster growing areas in Port Stephens

In 2015, the NSW Government funded a \$15 million *Local Landcare Co-ordinators Initiative*, which brought together volunteer groups at a local level to work on bigger-picture projects with long lasting impacts for the environment.

The renewed support of an additional \$22.4 million will ensure Landcare NSW continues to thrive across the State, in partnership with Local Land Services (LLS).

The initiative will include a new Aboriginal Landcare Program, which will support Aboriginal people in undertaking traditional land management practices.

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