Header

Local Landcare Group contact details

Date

Name of Member/Candidate

Dear Member/Candidate Name

Re: LANDCARE COMMUNITIES – AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE

We are the (name your group) and have been active in this area for XX years caring for our natural landscapes and local communities. We focus on improving knowledge about the environment and soils and ways to farms sustainably*. Make this para relevant for your group and area.*

**The report on the catastrophic state of the environment released on 7 May 2019 by the United Nations,** <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/> **should spur all political parties to prioritise funding and support for grassroots Landcare.**

The critical message in this report is that it’s not too late; we must not give in to despair but act now at every level, from local to global. UN Spokesman, Sir Robert Watson, commented that through ‘transformative change nature can still be conserved, restored and used sustainably’.

Landcare is a movement of farmers, conservationists, children, scientists and ordinary people who volunteer their time, effort and resources to protect and restore our natural resources. We are at the forefront of the transformative change identified in the UN report but we cannot operate without funding and support from the Federal Government.

Despite a 30-year history in Australia – 60,000 volunteers and 3000 groups in NSW – federal funding for Landcare is in decline. Nobody is talking about Landcare in the federal election campaign and the name of our community movement is being used for a federal government program that in large part does not reach our groups.

We need bold leadership from whichever party is in power federally to engage local people across the nation in making the transformative change needed to manage our natural resources sustainably.

Landcare groups in NSW have worked in partnership with the NSW Government over the past four years to rebuild local volunteer group infrastructure but the lack of commitment from the mis-named National Landcare Program has resulted in severe cuts in several regions. <https://landcarensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/190429-NLP2-Landcare-capacity-diminished.pdf>

The National Landcare Network, the peak body for state and territory community Landcare organisations, along with Landcare Australia Limited, have compiled *‘Landcare Communities - Australia’s Future’ -* a Policy Roadmap for Landcare in Australia. <https://landcarensw.org.au/landcare-and-the-federal-election/>

We commend these documents to you and seek your support and the support of your party for a strengthened pledge to community Landcare. We want to further build engagement of volunteers across the country, get funding delivered at the most local level possible supported by paid local Landcare coordinators and facilitators.

Landcare organisations, including ours, are proposing a new investment model, to support a Landcare movement that is community driven at all scales, successfully weaving local solutions into meeting regional, national and international priorities.

We hope you will express your support for this model, and look forward to working with you. Please contact us for a detailed briefing or to view the work we are doing in this area. To arrange a meeting or for more information please call XXXXXX on XXXXXX or email XXXXX.

Yours sincerely

Local Landcare group Chair or CEO