

FAQ

LANDCARE COMMUNITIES – AUSTRALIA’S FUTURE

A policy roadmap for Landcare in Australia



Who are the Landcare Organisations?

Jointly the National Landcare Network, the State and Territory Landcare Organisations and Landcare Australia represent community Nationally. Landcare is a foundation of strong communities, with tens of thousands of Landcarers acting together to restore land, water and coastal landscapes across all boundaries.

What is *Landcare Communities – Australia’s Future* asking for?

The Landcare Communities are looking for a new national model that values:

- Local responses to local problems
- Locally driven, nationally supported collaborations and networks
- Reliable and consistent core funding
- Building local capacity and volunteer engagement
- Simplified processes
- Demonstrated success, across multiple sectors and scales, and learning from the past
- Increased funding, to reflect the scale and urgency of the problem, and community’s demonstrated capacity to act.

We are looking for an increased commitment to:

- A major increase in action on ground funding administered locally
- Funding for local landcare coordinators/facilitators; landcare network hubs and networking positions guided by community Landcare groups
- Funding for Landcare Communities to ensure Landcare has a national voice
- A review of National Landcare and Natural Resource Management model of delivery
- Funding for a citizen science program connecting community and researchers
- Support for Traditional Owners working on country
- Engagement of youth through schools and post school
- Support for a National Wildlife Corridor Initiative
- Support for programs linking farmers and consumers
- A land stewardship program and support for integrated revegetation across farms for multiple benefit
- Further support for restoration tourism to bring appreciate of nature together with restoring it.

How can I help Landcare at this time?

The Landcare Organisations are asking all those who care about protecting Australia’s environment and sustaining the Landcare movement to:

Speak or write to your local MPs and candidates about your concerns, provide a copy of ‘*Landcare Communities – Australia’s Future A policy roadmap for Landcare in Australia*’.

This [Policy Statement](#) is seeking increased commitment to community Landcare regardless of who takes government.

The **National Landcare Network Ltd** is the national, representative not for profit organisation for community Landcare in Australia formed in 2011. It has filled a gap to provide a forum for State and Territory peak Landcare organisations to speak with one voice. Representation is achieved through membership from each State and Territory on the Board and representation on a Members Council.

Landcare Australia Ltd was formed in 1992 during the Decade of Landcare. It was established with a business model to support the Landcare movement by promoting Landcare and building awareness in the community, marketing the Landcare brand and attracting corporate and philanthropic support. It organises the National Conferences and Awards, funds State and Territory conferences and awards and has run other major projects.

State and Territory Landcare Organisations are the peak bodies for landcare in each state and territory.

Why is community Landcare important?

Australia needs the expansion of the Landcare movement to build resilience in communities and in our natural systems. The most recent national State of Environment Report released by the Australian Government says that our natural environment is in serious and rapid decline (link to summary document).

The Landcare community - tens of thousands of farmers, Traditional Owners, retirees, kids, and other passionate individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds across Australia - is directly addressing these challenges. Analyses shows up to a six-fold return on investment in Landcare. (*Aurecon. 2018. Landcare NSW regional data snapshots: Impact of a supported Landcare in NSW. Landcare NSW. June 2018 p 28.*)

What is the Landcare Movement?

Landcare is a volunteer movement that began in the 1980s to protect and restore Australia's lands, water, coasts and communities through effective hands-on management.

Community Landcare is an important part of the way Australians manage the environment and natural resources on private and public lands. It enables local communities and landholders to understand and address local environmental issues in partnership with government and the private sector and implement solutions that best fit local conditions.

By working at a grassroots level, Landcare changes the way that communities, local, Federal and State governments and landholders view and manage their reserves, beaches, farms and rivers. It encourages positive, long-term environmental stewardship and builds the capacity and resilience of local communities and natural systems.

Who is involved?

Community Landcare groups include coastcare, bushcare, rivercare, landcare, catchment, 'Friends of', Traditional Owner landcare, biosecurity, farmer and rangelands groups working on sustainable production, soil health, habitat and land protection across rural and urban areas. Community landcare partners with all levels of government, other non-government organisations, regional NRM groups, researchers and businesses.

Much of the work done by Landcare volunteers takes place at the local level, with groups carrying out on-ground work to protect their local patch that often also meets regional and national priorities. This could be a city nature reserve or a privately owned farming or rangelands property. More information about Landcare can be found in the [Policy Statement Background Paper](#) on the National Landcare Network (NLN) website: www.nln.org.au which links to state and territory peak bodies; or on the Landcare Australia website: www.landcareaustralia.org.au.

How can I get more involved with Landcare?

- Find out who is standing in your electorates
- Speak or write to your local MPs and candidates about 'Landcare Communities – Australia's Future A policy roadmap for Landcare in Australia'. Ask them to commit to increased support for community Landcare before they go to the polls on 18 May.
- Follow Facebook, Twitter (link to your state/territory online)
- Talk to people in your community about how candidates in the Federal election can support Landcare
- Join your local group, have your group join your state and territory peak Landcare body links on <http://nln.org.au/>