

YOU ASKED WE DELIVERED

Summary of achievements
2017-2019



October 2019



Landcare
New South Wales

Many Hands, One Voice

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Introduction
Dr Adrian Zammit,
Landcare NSW CEO

Since 2007, grassroots Landcarers have met every two years to help define the path of Landcare in NSW.

As Landcare is a grassroots community driven movement, the Landcare Muster, held in conjunction with the State Conference, is a valued opportunity for Landcarers to learn from each other, celebrate achievements, network and discuss areas of concern and local priorities with other Landcarers throughout the State.

The Muster provides Landcare NSW with an opportunity to hear directly from the grassroots. It is your opportunity to provide feedback on the current work of Landcare NSW and provide guidance for the work of Landcare NSW over the upcoming two years.

Since the last Muster in Albury in 2017, Landcare NSW has worked to build the professionalism of the organisation by diversifying revenue streams and our representative base, delivering your messages to decision makers, and providing support services the Landcare community has told us they need.

The following pages outline Landcare NSW's achievements against what was asked of us at the 2017 Muster.

I hope you'll agree with me that good progress has been achieved in all areas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking Landcare NSW Councillors and staff for their efforts - they regularly go above and beyond to ensure that Landcare gets the recognition and support it needs.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of our Chair and Executive Committee who generously give their time and expertise for the benefit of the NSW Landcare community.

I warmly welcome you to the 2019 Landcare NSW Muster, and I look forward to working with you to ensure Landcare in NSW continues to achieve results for our landscapes and communities.

Dr Adrian Zammit,
CEO Landcare NSW

SUPPORT

Strengthening Landcare nationally

To support and strengthen Landcare in NSW, Landcare NSW worked alongside NSW Local Land Services to facilitate the commitment by the State Government of \$22.4 million for the NSW Landcare Program 2019-2023.

This program builds on the achievements of the 2017-2019 NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative (LLCI) and provides continuing support for our Landcare members and groups.

The NSW Landcare Program funds 68 Local Landcare Coordinators and 11 Regional Coordinators and facilitates the provision of services at a state, regional and local level. This program also provides significant funding for engaging Aboriginal community groups in Landcare and for professional training and

development services for the Local and Regional Landcare Coordinators.

The NSW Landcare Program is co-designed, co-governed and co-delivered by Landcare NSW and NSW Local Land Services.

Nationally, Landcare NSW has worked through the National Landcare Network (NLN) to assist in facilitating a merger between the NLN and Landcare Australia to ensure the Landcare movement is effectively represented at the national level.

Representatives from the Landcare NSW Executive, along with the CEO, have worked in conjunction with the two organisations in this endeavour. Work continues to support these two organisations to a transitional merger.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Building an organisation to last

Crucial to the effective delivery of member services and representation for the NSW Landcare community is the strength and capacity of Landcare NSW. The development of a professional and experienced team has improved the consistency and quality of communications, project management, member services and operations management.

As part of building capacity within the organisation, Councillors undertook an induction process to build a team with the right skillset to serve our members. This enabled Councillors to develop an understanding of how Landcare NSW fits into the NRM framework and helped to ensure the work of the staff, council and executive committee are mutually supportive.

Landcare NSW has worked to secure additional funding through fee-for-service partnerships (both government and non-government) to ensure the sustainability of our Landcare communities. These partners, whose values are aligned to Landcare, give our members and communities opportunities beyond those provided by the NSW Landcare Program.

They include: NSW Local Land Services, Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT), Department of Planning, Industries and Environment (DPIE), Australian Railway Track Corporation (ARTC) – Inland Rail, Achmea,

OzFish Unlimited, Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), Carbon8 and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

Landcare NSW's goal is to become a partner of choice for state-wide NRM activities. Projects such as the \$650,000 Managing Established Pest Animals and Weeds (MEPAAW), the \$1.37 million Biodiversity Conservation Trust Project and \$480,000 CDS (Exchange for Change) are examples of how Landcare NSW is working to highlight the value of Landcare networks in delivering services and opportunities to Landcare communities across NSW.

Connecting with donors through philanthropic and fundraising efforts is a focus area in diversifying our income and in-kind support. Landcare NSW worked with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and Landcare Australia to auspice fundraising in lieu of our own Deductible Gift Recipient Status (DGR).

In July 2019, Landcare NSW received approval for DGR status. Work is underway to develop processes and procedures to allow Landcare Member groups to utilise this service.

Landcare NSW also provides governance support, guidelines, policy templates, advice and support on every aspect of running an effective Landcare group.



REPRESENTATION

Realising the power and potential of a peak body

As the voice of Landcare in NSW we have a responsibility to faithfully represent our members views.

Each Landcare region has one or two elected regional representatives who sit on the Landcare NSW Council and act as spokesperson for their region. Council meets four times a year, providing direction for the organisation and the Landcare movement.

Councillors are responsible for ensuring the views of groups in their region are represented faithfully at the state level. They also share information gathered at Council meetings within their region. This ensures accountability, alignment and close links between the state-body and local Landcare.

Key external stakeholders (often senior representatives from NSW Government departments) are invited to Landcare NSW Council meetings to hear firsthand about the challenges and successes regions are experiencing and to offer their perspectives.

Landcare NSW supports the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFL). PFL provides a forum to ensure Landcare is accurately represented and the views of members are heard and represented at a policy level. In 2019, Landcare NSW CEO, Dr Adrian Zammit, met with Parliamentarians more than 30 times to ensure on-the-ground issues are heard. An annual Trees in the House event is held at NSW Parliament House.

In September 2018, NSW Sustaining Landcare Week was initiated by Landcare NSW with the support of PFL.

Over 30 community events were held during a two week period across the state to raise community awareness about the vital work undertaken by Landcare and allow Landcarers and members of the public to come together to share their experiences and knowledge.

In the Legislative Assembly, 11 MPs spoke on the value Landcare provides and commended the dedication of Landcarers. Efforts by Landcare groups to connect with their local MPs were crucial in raising awareness and generating support for continued State funding for Landcare.

As the voice of Landcare, Landcare NSW has implemented strategic initiatives to utilise all available resources to share the stories, successes and diversity of the Landcare network.

The NSW Landcare Gateway website was reviewed in 2017 to streamline content. Landcare projects and achievements are highlighted through sharing content on social media with an increase of 69% in Facebook page engagement in the past two years.

Understanding and articulating the value of Landcare has never been more important; to this end Landcare NSW funded a report titled *Landcare NSW regional data snapshots - Impact of a supported Landcare in NSW*, which highlighted the importance and strength of the Landcare network and its net value of \$500 million per year.



GOVERNANCE

Putting Local Landcare at the heart of the governance system

With governance a key focus for all Landcare groups in the light of changing funding landscapes and committee accountabilities, Landcare NSW facilitated governance workshops as part of the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative (LLCI) through the project Creating Confident Committees.

At the State Landcare gathering in Redfern early this year, Local Landcare Coordinators and Host Organisation volunteer committee members participated in learning, and knowledge exchange with skilled practitioners in things like change management. They then took these learnings back to their communities and jobs.

In addition to this, the LLCI team delivered Governance Health Checks and provided templates and other supporting information to build their capacity as agents of change.

Landcare NSW developed a Strategic Plan for the period of 2017-2020, Communications Plan 2018-2020 and has an annual Operations Plan.

These documents highlight deliverables and strategic objectives both as an organisation and as a movement.

Creating regular channels of communication between our member groups and the Landcare NSW CEO is a priority. As part of the Landcare NSW Community Engagement Project, the Landcare NSW CEO is regularly visiting member groups across the state to ensure that all members are heard and informed of the work Landcare NSW is doing as a state peak body.



MEMBERSHIP

Inviting members from across the movement

In response to the 2015 Muster, Landcare NSW launched paid membership model for the Landcare NSW Network to improve our support and services.

In 2019, there were 201 Landcare and other community NRM groups who were members of Landcare NSW. An increase of 53 member groups since the 2017 Muster.

Member benefits include;

- members-only funding opportunities e.g. the NSW Landcare Program, BCT and MEPAAW,
- priority access to Landcare NSW service contracts with third party providers such as the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
- access to the Landcare Insurance Group Program (including Public Liability and Voluntary Workers Insurance, Association Liability coverage, Professional Indemnity, Officers and Directors Liability insurance)

Landcare NSW members also have access to the support of a Member Services Officer for inquiries and services related to Landcare.

Available on the Landcare NSW website are 32 Fact Sheets and 42 policy and other templates for the information and use of Landcare and community organisations. Also available is a Communication Toolkit, and Employment Toolkit and Governance Health Checks for small Landcare Groups and Landcare Networks.

Improving engagement between Landcare and Aboriginal organisations and communities, was raised as a priority issue at the 2017 Muster. In recognition of the importance of developing partnerships and engaging Traditional Owners in the Landcare movement, an Aboriginal Engagement component is included in the 2019-2023 NSW Landcare Program.

This program is currently being developed and is an opportunity to consolidate our existing relationships with Aboriginal organisations and communities and work towards fostering greater understanding for the shared values of caring for our country.



EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL

Stephanie Cameron - New England North West Landcare (Chair)

Keith Hyde - LachLandcare (Vice-Chair)

Hunter White - Central Tablelands Regional Landcare (Treasurer)

Stuart Mosely - Western Landcare NSW (Secretary)

Bev Debrincat - Greater Sydney Landcare

Chris Post - South East Landcare

Leslie Pearson - Hunter Region Landcare

Marg Applebee - Central West Natural Resource Management Working Group

Stephen Harvey - New England North West Landcare

Gareth Johnson - Murrumbidgee Landcare

Alan McGufficke - LachLandcare

Neil McLaren - South East Landcare

Hannah Rice-Hayes - North Coast Regional Landcare Network

Sue Salvin - North Coast Regional Landcare

Chris Scott - Mid Coast 2 Tops Landcare

Dale Stringer - Murray Region Landcare

Louise Turner - Western Landcare

Clare Vernon - Invited Member

David Walker - Invited Member

Claudia Wythes - Central Tablelands Regional Landcare Network

Notes

Notes



2019 Landcare NSW

Muster

MANY HANDS, ONE VOICE

We thank you for your participation in the 2019
Landcare NSW Muster

The 2019 Landcare NSW Muster is possible because
of the support provided under the following
programs.



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Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



We also thank the 2019 Landcare and Local Land
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