



Dear Recipient,

In a rapidly changing environment we would like to reach out to remind you to take appropriate measures within your landcare workplace and work sites.

As of Sunday, 30th March the Federal Government announced that no more than 2 people can be in an enclosed space within 1.5 metres of each other and any non-essential movements is to be restricted.

This also included recommendations that any people over the age of 70, those with a chronic illness aged over 60 or who have a chronic medical condition that leaves them vulnerable, and Indigenous Australians over the age of 50 should stay at home as much as practical and self-isolate where possible.

Exemptions include:

- People of the same household gathering together
- Funerals, where a maximum of 10 people can gather
- Weddings, where there can be up to five people
- Family units, which is understood to mean immediate family.

The National Cabinet also gave "strong guidance" for all Australians to stay home unless people were:

- Shopping for "food and necessary supplies"
- Providing medical, healthcare or compassionate services (i.e. taking on the role of a carer)
- Exercising in a group of two or the size of your household
- Working or studying if they could not do so remotely

For many of our Landcare groups this is a difficult task, however we would remind our members who have insurance through Ceneta and Community Underwriting that they released a statement on Friday March 20 via Landcare NSW stating that:

"The advice they have given for Landcare groups holding events is as follows:

- *We are unable to cover events where the attendees exceed either the current federal or state advice for public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups.*

- *Where events are conducted with attendees less than the government recommendation, we recommend an organisation to undertake a risk assessment taking in the government advice.*

Additionally, NSW Workplace Health and Safety has released guidelines here <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/Coronavirus-advice-and-guidance-for-NSW-workplaces> to help guide you and your activities during this time.

We suggest that an assessment as per guidelines above be done to define if activities are essential and removed of any risk related to COVID-19.



Federal Government Stimulus Package

The Government is acting decisively in the national interest to support households and businesses and address the significant economic consequences of the Coronavirus.

While the full economic effects from the virus remain uncertain, the outlook has deteriorated since the Government's initial Economic Response announced on 12 March 2020.

On 30 March, the Government announced the \$130 billion JobKeeper Payment to help keep Australians in jobs as we deal with the significant economic impact from the Coronavirus. This brings the Government's total support for the economy to \$320 billion across the forward estimates, representing 16.4 per cent of annual GDP.

General Information

<https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus>

Do you employ staff?

JobKeeper Payment

The Government is introducing a subsidy program to support employees and businesses. The JobKeeper Payment is designed to help businesses affected by the Coronavirus to cover the costs of their employees' wages, so that more employees can retain their job and continue to earn an income. Keeping Australians in work and businesses in business will lay the foundations for a stronger economic recovery once the Coronavirus crisis passes.

Supporting Business:

- Boosting cash flow for employers
- Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses
- Increasing the instant asset write-off
- Support for Coronavirus-affected regions and communities

For detailed information see: <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses>

Landcare Groups should talk to their financial advisers to see if they are eligible.

Landcare NSW has directed all staff to work remotely for the foreseeable future and we work within the directives of the NSW and Federal government.

We are utilising the many technologies to ensure that we remain connected across our independent offices, many including kitchen tables and studies that second as a school room.

We do not take these times lightly, but we continue to work with all staff and partners across NSW to ensure that all projects and programs are supported beyond this crisis. We remind ourselves that Landcare has survived the devastation of drought, flood and fire. It will survive COVID-19.



Our partnerships with Local Land Services (LLS) for the *NSW Landcare Program*, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for the delivery of the *Million Trees project* and with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) are still in place and on track.

Grant and funding bodies are aware of current restrictions regarding deliverables and will work with groups to negotiate deadlines considering current movement restrictions. The NSW Landcare Program team is working directly with all coordinators to ensure that any deliverables are flexible and realistic. Should you wish to discuss your concerns, please contact Natasha English via email nenglish@landcarensw.org.au.

As always, we are always a phone, email, or social media message away.

For those feeling the full 'isolate' in 'isolation' consider holding a virtual morning tea using video networking platforms such as:

- [Zoom](#)
- [Facebook messenger](#)
- [House Party on Apple](#) or [Android](#)
- [WhatsApp group chat](#)

Landcare NSW continues to share our successes and pieces of interest via our different channels of communications including [Facebook](#) (don't forget Funding Friday for all that forward planning!), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#). You can also subscribe to our newsletter [The Landcare Connection](#) for our upcoming newsletter.

Visit the Health NSW website for further information, <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Stay up to date with current advice as circumstances change and review your activities and risk management accordingly. Visit www.health.nsw.gov.au.

Please feel free to forward this information to your group members, particularly those who do not access email regularly.

Above all, practice healthy hygiene and always wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.