

Landcare NSW Incorporated

ABN 24 958 819 359

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cc Shane Norrish CEO

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cc Jim Adams CEO

CC

Australian Landcare International

Intrepid Landcare

Landcare ACT

Landcare Association of South Australia

Landcare NT

Landcare TAS

Landcare VIC

National Landcare Network Members Council

Queensland Water and Land Carers

WA Landcare Network

28 August 2020

RE: Landcare NSW response to National Landcare

Dear Doug and Patrick,

As representatives of the NSW Landcare community, we write to convey our strong view that Landcare's national organisational arrangements must be reformed to create a single, representative, national peak Landcare organisation that functions through and leverages the strengths of all existing State and Territory Landcare Peak Organisations (STOs).

This reform is urgently needed to refresh and rejuvenate Landcare at the national level to make the movement much more effective and compelling to its partners through works to protect the environment while building healthy agricultural industries and looking after people and communities.

The NSW Landcare community arrived at this majority view after a four-month process of consultations and discussions within our regions throughout NSW.

At its 12 August meeting, the Landcare NSW Council, consisting of representatives of the NSW regions, endorsed the collective feedback from the NSW Landcare community and resolved that this reform is critical for the future of Landcare in Australia.

Specifically, Council resolved that the following points be conveyed to Landcare Australia Limited (LAL), National Landcare Network (NLN), all counterpart STOs and key Landcare stakeholders and partners.

1. LAL and NLN must immediately resume discussions to form one national Landcare body that represents grassroots Landcarers and provides the range of services needed to support and grow Landcare nationally.
2. This will require open, frank and professional discussion by those in national leadership positions regarding the issues that led to the failed merger and the rebuilding of trust to allow a meeting of the minds regarding the way forward.
3. A realistic timeframe for completion of the process must be set, albeit noting the urgency of the issue, and a formal process undertaken and resourced, with the requisite expertise.
4. The single merged national body must:
 - a. Bring together the strengths and competencies of the NLN (representation, advocacy, policy) and LAL (marketing, communications, fundraising, corporate relationships);
 - b. Have a federated representative structure that works through (and not around) each of the eight STOs to ensure Landcare community's 'bottom up' ethos is preserved;
 - c. Must not include other environmental organisations, corporates nor other entities or individuals that are not deemed to be 'Landcare', as voting members of the new national body. Membership must be preserved for the eight STOs and independent board members of LAL;
 - d. Through a competitive and transparent recruitment process, must seek a leadership and management team that has the requisite skills and experience to lead and rejuvenate the Landcare movement nationally.

In summary, as representatives of thousands of Landcare organisations, groups and individuals in NSW, we believe this reform is essential for the future of Landcare in Australia and request it be implemented with due care, responsibility and cooperation as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

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Many Hands, One Voice
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Central West NRM Working Group

Landcare NSW Executive Committee



Leslie Pearson

Hunter Region Landcare Network

Landcare NSW Executive Committee



Hunter White

Central Tablelands Landcare Network

Landcare NSW Executive Committee



Bev Debrincat

Greater Sydney Landcare Network Inc.

Landcare NSW Executive Committee



