

Information Kit – The Governance Project – Connecting Up Landcare NSW

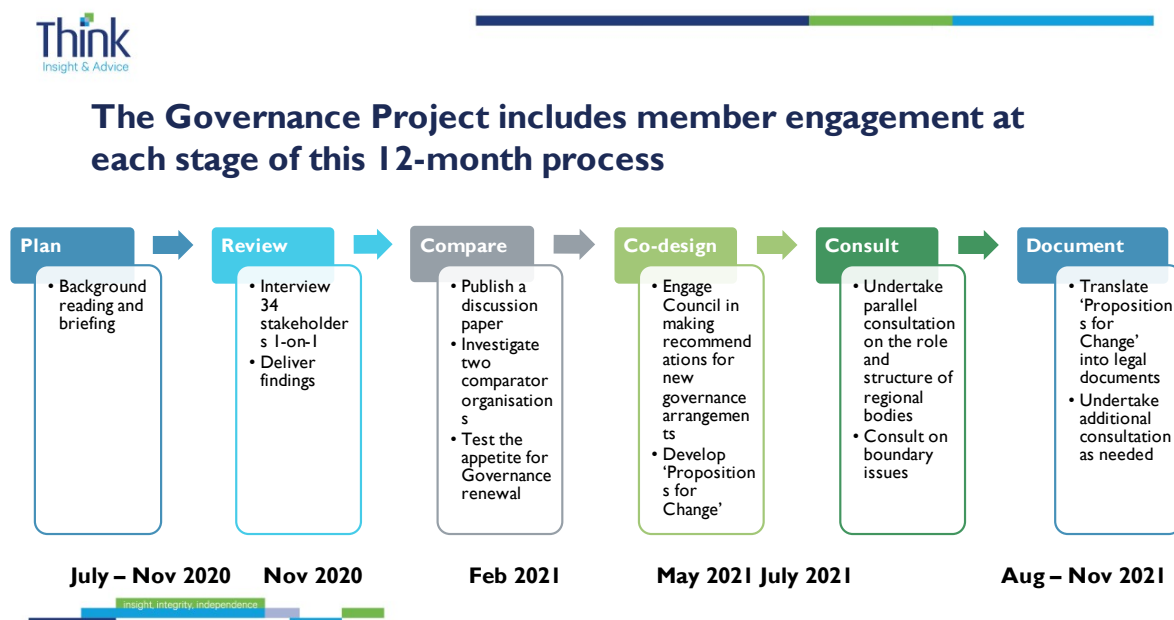
Introduction

Landcare NSW is reviewing our governance system to ensure it is suited to the recent growth of our organisation and the community we represent.

This is the first major governance review since Landcare NSW was formed in 2007.

The Governance Project is being facilitated by Randall Pearce of Think Insight Advice. Randall consults to not-for-profit organisations across Australia and has worked with Landcare NSW since 2014.

The project involves the following milestones:



The purpose of this Information Kit is to inform and engage the Landcare community. It contains:

1. Overview
2. Discussion Paper
3. Frequently Asked Questions
4. Presentation for use in local meetings
5. More information

1. Overview

Landcare NSW seeks to build a governance system that is:

- Fit for Purpose
- Clear
- Efficient

- Accountable
- Transparent

Exemplary governance is essential for the Landcare movement to receive funds from donors, funders and investors and a requirement for Landcare NSW's legitimacy as a state peak body. It will help us fulfil our vision to nurture a volunteer movement that enables all Australians to care for our land and natural resources.

Governance is not confined to Landcare NSW's Executive Committee and Council. We need a system that 'connects up' the many elements that make up the NSW Landcare community.

In reviewing our governance we have asked ourselves these questions:

- Is our system understandable to Landcarers and others who deal with us?
- If not, how can it be simplified?
- What is the role of the Council vs the Executive Committee?
- What is the role of regional Landcare organisations?
- Can we align our representative boundaries more closely with our government funders?
- Do our representatives have sufficient mandate and profile in their regions?
- Are the roles on these governance bodies 'do-able' for busy volunteers?
- Are there conflicts of interest and if so how should they be managed?
- Do we have the right mix of skills and representation?
- Should Landcare NSW transition to incorporation under the Corporations Act?

Council has discussed these matters at length and will continue the dialogue at a workshop to be held on 19 May. Please engage with your Councillor so they can bring forward your views. You can read more about the Council of Landcare NSW here: <https://landcarensw.org.au/council-members/>

There will be opportunities in the coming months to contribute to this discussion. Please send your feedback or questions at any time to administration@landcarensw.org.au

A dedicated page is available on Landcare NSW's website via the [Member Portal here](#).

2. Discussion Paper

<https://landcarensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Governance-Project-Connecting-Up-Landcare-NSW-Discussion-Paper-UPDATED-09.03.21.pdf>

3. FAQs

What would be the benefit of moving from incorporation under the Associations Act to the Corporations Act?

Landcare NSW has grown over the past several years and incorporation as a 'company limited by guarantee' may be more suitable to the size and complexity of the organisation.

What is the 'conflict of interest' issue you refer to?

During the formative years of Landcare NSW, when the available pool of people willing to volunteer for Executive Committee roles was smaller, some committee positions were held by Landcare Coordinators in a voluntary capacity. While in practice, a conflict of interest has not been evident, it is time to clarify that professional Landcare coordinators and executive officers should not hold positions on the Executive Committee or Council of Landcare NSW.

Why are you considering changing boundaries?

Landcare NSW's primary partner is Local Land Services and the structure of the NSW Landcare Program includes Regional Landcare Coordinators. A simple mechanism is needed to ensure all regions of the State are represented on the LNSW Council. There may be value in aligning Landcare NSW's boundaries to that of LLS for the purposes of choosing representatives on Council.

What changes do you anticipate to Regional Landcare Organisations?

Regional Landcare organisations vary around the State. Some are large, well-developed organisations that are incorporated and highly structured. Others consist of a network or loose collective that meets to share information. One consideration is how regional bodies could be strengthened and what aspects of best practice could be shared.

Another is to examine the links between the regional organisations and the LNSW Council. Currently regional Landcare organisations are not mentioned in the LNSW constitution.

4. [PowerPoint presentation](#) to use in Local Meetings

5. More information

Please feel free to contact Landcare NSW any time at administration@landcarensw.org.au