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Landcare NSW adopts a 'safety first' principle. We expect all paid members groups to be guided and informed by the same principle and be aware and compliant with any corresponding Federal or NSW state legislation that might affect a groups activity.

Paid member groups are reminded that community expectation is that any paid member group activity is held in a properly controlled and safe manner using every opportunity to mitigate risk to protect groups and its members, staff and third-party contractors.

**Landcare NSW regards the following activities as potentially hazardous and MUST be undertaken by appropriately skilled, trained, licensed or certified individuals for activities that are part of a controlled Landcare paid member group activity that has been preapproved by the committee of management of that group.**

Types of Activities:

1. Use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals (including trailer mounted units)
2. Use of chainsaws, heavy and motorised machinery
3. Use of firearms
4. Pest baiting
5. Use of watercraft (not exceeding 8m in length)
6. Snorkelling and scuba diving
7. Working at heights

Paid member groups undertaking these activities on either singular or regular basis must inform their designated contact (their groups Landcare Coordinator) or designated safety officer and operate according to both Federal and NSW state legislation and the Landcare NSW WH&S policy and risk assessment requirements.

All paid group members whilst participating in Landcare style group activities on public land or in a Landcare group based working bee on private and/or public land, should ensure that they have appropriate certification, qualifications and skill levels.

Furthermore, designated activity leaders and Landcare Coordinators **MUST** check the insurance and relevant certifications of all contractors and suppliers of pesticides/ herbicides/ other chemicals that are intended to be used at the controlled activity.

All Landholder group members on which a Landcare developed project is being implemented on their own land, and who are working on their own property outside of a specific Group controlled activity, must ensure they have the correct certifications, skills and corresponding insurances to cover this work.

All Landcare group members on which a Landcare developed project is being implemented on any waterway must ensure they have the correct certifications, skills and corresponding insurances to cover this work. As a minimum of one person must hold a current Bronze medallion (SLSA) or equivalent.

**Landcare NSW will not permit untrained or unlicensed volunteers to be participating in any of the abovementioned activities.**

#### Risk Assessment & mitigation

Paid member groups are strongly encouraged to develop a risk management strategy which could include extended insurance provision alongside other practical step that can reduce risks including site inspections or safety briefings.

It is important to include risk assessment as a standing agenda or procedure whenever activities are undertaken. The following organisations have produced an excellent practical guide to assist in developing a risk management framework.

**Not for Profit Law Centre** - [Insurance and risk management for community organisations](#)

**Volunteering Australia** - [Running the Risk? \(volunteeringaustralia.org\)](#)

Further supporting information

Landcare NSW provides numerous policies, templates and checklists for use by Groups, Regional Networks and Landcare Coordinators to ensure that all activities are organised and run in a safe and compliant manner. These tools are freely available via our website and cover the following topics:

- WH&S Policy (per group)
- WH &S Induction Checklist
- WH&S Assessment for Landcare Field Days & Events
- WH&S Assessment for a Landcare Office