

On Programs  
and  
Partnerships  
Shaping the  
2023 – 2026  
NSW Landcare  
Program



# NSW Landcare Program

*A partnership between Landcare NSW and Local land Services (State Government)*



## Approach Adopted

A collaborative, iterative and consultative process involving stakeholders - including Landcare volunteers, coordinators, hosts and committee representatives.

Key activities:

Stakeholder engagement

- ☐ Economic evaluation
- ☐ Options development and analysis
- ☐ Strategic business case development.



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## Stakeholder Engagement Workshops - The Blue Tribe Company

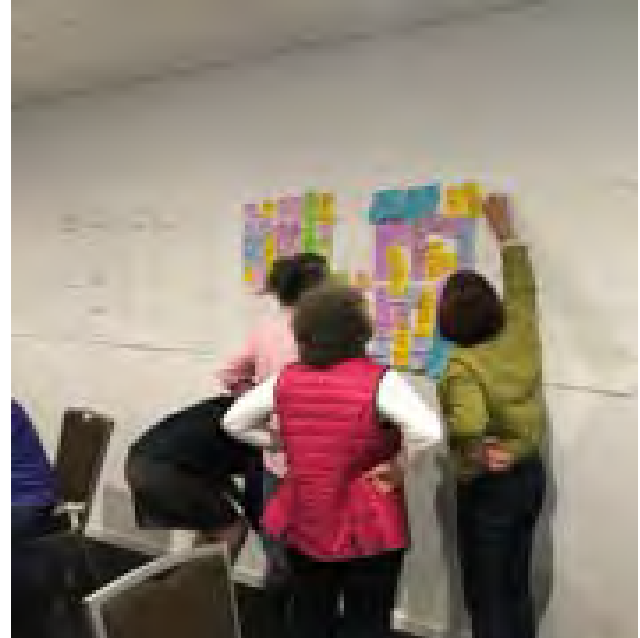
Five workshops held regionally in Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Grafton, Sydney, plus one held online.

Over 100 participants.

Purpose:

- Understand stakeholder views on the existing Landcare program
- Explore the future of Landcare in NSW
- Identify barriers/challenges
- Identify solutions to these barriers/challenges

A copy of the workshop report is available.



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## Workshop Process

Future thinking exercise using the Three Horizons model.

The participants completed tasks to understand:

- ☐ The current state of play in their local Landcare programs
- ☐ Identify challenges and frustrations with the existing program
- ☐ Identify what is working well in the existing program
- ☐ Articulate the future that we want for the program
- ☐ Identify any emerging trends that could shape this future.



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## Present State Findings

- ☐ Volunteers mainly landholders with few town folk involved
- ☐ Demographic mostly 40 - 80 years
- ☐ Collaboration with other partner organisations
- ☐ Some groups have a younger demographic
- ☐ Large diversity of activities
- ☐ Strong connection to land and community with positive mental health outcomes
- ☐ Good relationships with farmers
- ☐ Landcare groups are businesses.



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## What Needs to Change?

- ☐ The Coordinator roles
- ☐ Host organization / committee representation
- ☐ Improve First Nations' engagement
- ☐ Match funding cycles with project cycles
- ☐ Volunteer burnout
- ☐ Grant application process
- ☐ Coordinator pay scales
- ☐ Lack of executive support for committees.



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## What's Working Well?

- ☐ The Local and Regional Coordinator roles (despite resource constraints)
- ☐ Professional development and Community of Practice
- ☐ Ability to connect in the NRM space
- ☐ Relationships between Coordinators/LNSW & LLS
- ☐ Landcare groups and flexibility to respond to local needs
- ☐ The Indigenous engagement program
- ☐ Partnership between Landcare NSW and Local Land Services.



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## What Could the Program Look Like in 2027?

- ☐ 1 x FTE Coordinator per district network
- ☐ Program design to support grassroots activity
- ☐ Less piecemeal grant funding and more core funding with timeframes matching project cycles
- ☐ Increased engagement, youth and city/town folk
- ☐ Strategic focus on carbon and other environmental markets
- ☐ Access to business services and specialist support
- ☐ Partnerships
- ☐ Active indigenous program
- ☐ Skills development programs
- ☐ Landcare profile.



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## Key Desires for the Future of Landcare

A thematic analysis included:

- ☐ Linkages with biodiversity
- ☐ Landcare as an economic stimulus
  - Eco-tourism
  - Carbon markets
  - Adaptive reuse
- ☐ Natural Capital
- ☐ Mental health.



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## Economic Evaluation – Nation Partners Pty Ltd

- ❑ Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) approach to valuing economic impacts of the Program
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Environmental
  
- ❑ Beneficiaries through participation
  - Community
  - Natural resources.

After the Rain – Loretta Mackenzie



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**“On balance, the program plays an essential role in enabling and sustaining Landcare activity across NSW.”**

- ❑ Increasing community participation - \$76M in benefits
- ❑ Increasing capacity to deliver – \$0.5M in benefits
- ❑ Increasing collaborations – \$3M in benefits.



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## The Findings

- ❑ \$79.2 million of benefit attributable to the program from an investment of \$22.4 million
- ❑ Program projected to generate a net benefit of \$57 million over 4 years
- ❑ Economic return of \$3.55 per dollar of investment.



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## Strategic Business Case and Options

- 1) Do nothing - funding withdrawn for the program
- 2) Business as usual (same funding and scope of program)
- 3) Expanded program
- 4) Program plus.



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## New program initiatives under consideration

- Minimum 0.6 FTE for coordinators (3 days per week)
- Mix of roles that may be supported by the program
- Expansion of regional Aboriginal Coordinator roles
- Support services / small business hubs (accounting, HR, IR, legal)
- Recognition of Landcare groups as professionals and streamlining the funding and investment process
- Digital Landcare strategy, including app functionality and streamlined reporting
- Campaign to target new members including youth
- Enterprise level software licensing and support for essential platforms (e.g., ArcGIS).



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## Where to Next?

- ☐ Economic evaluation – finalised in August 2022
- ☐ Cost benefit analysis of various options – September 2022
- ☐ Short form business case to Treasury – September 2022
- ☐ Initial discussion and feedback – October / November 2022
- ☐ Finalisation of long form business case – February 2023
- ☐ Decision by Treasury – March 2023.



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