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13 November 2022

The Hon. Wendy Tuckerman MP
PO Box 168
GOULBURN NSW 2580

Dear Wendy,

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support for the NSW Landcare Program to continue beyond 2023.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know how much the existing funding has helped Gunning District Landcare, one of several Landcare groups in your electorate of Goulburn. Our mission statement, from our 2022 Strategic Plan, is:

"To support and empower our community in building a sustainable and ecologically healthy Gunning District, with farms that are economically and environmentally sustainable, landscapes rich in natural biodiversity, and communities that are happy, cohesive and resilient."

With almost 100 members, Gunning District Landcare works to preserve threatened species, restore native vegetation to increase biodiversity and landscape function, works with local landholders to improve the effectiveness of pest and weed control, and facilitates public education and engagement.

Most of our work is accomplished through the efforts of landholders and volunteers working in many and varied capacities. While volunteerism is at the heart of Landcare, we also need professional Regional and Local Landcare Coordinators and central support services such as information, training, communication, data, tools, guidelines and advice. These structures and services enable Landcarers to get on with the job of protecting our natural resources, promoting sustainable agriculture and building social capital.

The NSW Landcare Program was funded by the NSW Government from 2019 to June 2023 and has been of enormous benefit to Gunning District Landcare. Our achievements during 2021 – 2022 show the breadth of our activities:

- Successfully delivered the Paddock Tree Project, funded by Local Land Services, and with support from Yass Landcare nursery;
- Continued work on Southern Pygmy Perch conservation:
 - Participated in survey of Oolong Creek at the end of 2021 with Mark Lintermans and Luke Pearce (NSW DPIE), and contributed to the scientific report of this survey with new conservation priorities identified,
 - Established a new partnership with Ozfish Unlimited, bringing with it substantial funding for Oolong Creek restoration,

- Working with Upper Lachlan Shire Council to arrange the removal of woody weeds on Oolong Creek near Fossil Park;
- Began work on the Gunning Showgrounds bush block
 - Obtained \$20,000 from the Australian government under the Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee fund,
 - Began work to secure funding to establish a local Bushcare group,
 - Submitted an application for funding to in the Stronger Country Communities fund for \$246,000 for next stage;
- Partnered with Southern Tablelands Arts, Yass Area Network and Upper Lachlan Landcare to deliver the Champions of Change film project, including a screening in Dalton;
- Commissioned the Biodiversity and Habitat Management Plan for Gunning Golf Course, with support from Upper Lachlan Shire Council;
- Supported the Upper Lachlan Habitat Connectivity Prioritisation Plan, commissioned by Upper Lachlan Landcare, and South East Local Land Services;
- Continued work on the Mates of Mundoonen project, with support from WIRES and NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service;
- Continued to support the Feral Fighters program, with Local Land Services;
- Delivered a school holiday activity at Gundaroo in partnership with Southern Tablelands Arts;
- Supported activity towards documenting a climate-neutral ULSC, with Upper Lachlan Landcare;
- Supported other community organisations in their applications for grant funding;
- Maintained an active Facebook presence;
- Continued delivering interesting and informative content in our members' email newsletter and website blog;
- Delivered flyers and posters within the community on our activities;
- Made a minor contribution to Upper Lachlan Landcare's excellent Fauna and Flora booklets;
- Generated publicity in the Gunning and Upper Lachlan newsletters, plus occasional ABC 666 interviews;
- Actively participated in Landcare NSW meetings and musters and related functions;
- Maintained our ongoing excellent relationship with Upper Lachlan Landcare, with a new program of two-monthly meetings between the Chairs and coordinators;
- Renewed our emphasis on collaboration with the Ngunnawal community.

As volunteers we willingly work hard to improve our environment and communities but we cannot do it alone. I note that you are already a member of the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare and we very much appreciate your ongoing interest. We urge you to continue the NSW government's funding support for the NSW Landcare Program beyond 2023.

With best wishes,



John Storey, Chair, Gunning District Landcare