

Landcare NSW Inc

How to get in touch with your local State MP / MLC



The [NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare \(PFL\)](#) was established in 2015 after a grassroots campaign to raise awareness of community Landcare.

You can help to strengthen ties with your Local Member by inviting them to join PFL so they can show their support and represent their local Landcare community in Parliament. Many MPs are already members of PFL in which case you can encourage their continued involvement and engage them in the activities of Landcare in their electorate.

We encourage everyone to form a relationship with your local Member of Parliament. If you already have this relationship, we encourage you to keep it alive.

SOME IDEAS

- Learn about the Parliament and who represents your area
- Write to MPs and MLCs and congratulate them on their recent appointment and let them know about your group and the role of the Local Coordinator program
- Ask for a meeting so you can brief them in person
- Invite them to become a member of your Landcare group
- Invite them to a field day or working day to promote your program in the local community – take photos and invite the media, share your events in social media

WHO IS YOUR LOCAL MEMBER?

To find the local MP in your area visit the [NSW Parliament website](https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/all-members.aspx) (<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/all-members.aspx>).

Not sure what electorate you are in? Find out on the website of the [NSW electorate office](https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Elections/Find-my-electorate) (<https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Elections/Find-my-electorate>).

TIPS FOR ENGAGING WITH YOUR LOCAL MEMBER

MAKE IT LOCAL When writing to a Member of Parliament, include your address and contact details. This is important because their role as an MP is to answer queries from constituents and support the local community. Explain how they can be helpful to Landcare. Ask for a meeting or invite them to an event. Give them a warm welcome, take a photo, share it on Facebook or invite the local media representative to come and write a story. The key is to get to know your Local Member. Our main focus is the State Parliament but it's also very useful to form a relationship with your Federal Member of Parliament.

BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR PURPOSE

In order to receive a considered response to your letter or email, write a considered letter. Are you writing simply to introduce your group and form a relationship, or are you seeking their support for a local initiative, or do you want them to support a broader statewide or national Landcare goal? There are many ways an MP can help you – they are well informed and connected. In the first instance the most valuable thing you can do is build a relationship.

“3 P’S”

In letters, emails and meetings be passionate, persistent and polite.

WHEN MEETING WITH YOUR MEMBER

Do your research about who they are, which political party, State or Federal Government, level of knowledge and interest in the issue. Have your key messages in mind – they will usually have limited time and remember they have to be across a huge range of issues so don't expect them to be experts in your field! Be specific about what you are seeking. Talk about the local issues. Seek to build an ongoing relationship. Ask them to help connect you with others in the community.

AFTER THE MEETING

Write to thank your local MP for making the time to meet with you, and reiterate why the meeting was important to you. Follow up any outstanding action. If you agreed to provide additional information, make sure you provide that within a reasonable time frame. If you were promised additional information, then follow this up (confirm that you are expecting to receive additional information in your thank you letter). Let Landcare NSW know about the meeting and how it went: communication@landcarensw.org.au

NEED ADVICE, HELP OR INFORMATION?

For more information contact:

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