

NSW Landcare Program 2023- 2027 – FAQ

Question: Will there be flexibility with positions funded through the Program ie. will we be able to employ a funded Administration support person?

Specific details regarding positions funded through the coordinator grants package will be provided when the grant guidelines are made available to all potential applicants.

We cannot disclose any specific information to potential grantees as there is a strict process we need to follow as per the Grants Administration Guidelines.

This information will become available when the grant guidelines are made available, hopefully in the next few weeks.

Question: Do all positions have to be 1 FTE? Can we split roles to part time?

The preference is for applicants to apply for 1FTE roles in line with the intent of the program. However, we understand that there may be a need for flexibility to meet the needs of the regions and local group's needs, and this is being explored and will be reflected in the guidelines.

Question: When will the coordination application process guidelines be released?

Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) and LLS are developing the grants package for the hosting of coordinator positions. The coordinator package will be delivered as a grant and will comply with the NSW Government's Grant Administration Guidelines

The intention is to have the new program grants package available in mid-September. Typically, open/close period for a grant is four weeks.

Question: Will the application process require a regional bid?

It has been identified that individual and regional applications should be considered.

Question: How many Regional Landcare Coordinator positions per region?

The original Strategic Business Case identified 1FTE Regional Landcare Coordinator position per region, with 11 FTE Regional Landcare Coordinator positions in total.

Question: Will clear role descriptions be provided for coordinator positions?

Role descriptions will need to be included as part of the grant guidelines.

Question: Will hosts apply separately and will contracts be issued for individual coordinator positions or per region?

Contracts are required for successful applicants. Individual and regional applications are being explored.

Question: Is there a template or format for the regional strategic plan that will replace the priority plans?

A selection of generic templates are available to assist Landcare regions with their strategic planning here: <https://landcarensw.org.au/templates/>

Question: Are the Regional Aboriginal Officers part of the coordinator application process? If not, when will the regional aboriginal officer positions begin?

The critical component of the program is the employment of Local and Regional Coordinators. The employment of the 11 Regional Aboriginal Officers will be separate to the coordinator application process and deserves careful planning and consideration to achieve success. Further information will be provided once a State Aboriginal Engagement Manager is employed.

Question: Will funding for coordinator positions be distributed evenly between regions or mainly to non-urban areas?

A key focus is ensuring a fair and equitable process for potential applicants and all Landcare regions.

Question: Do all host organisations need to be Landcare groups? Can Councils or LLS regional offices host positions?

Specific details regarding host eligibility will be available in the grant guidelines.

Question: Are there deliverables that need to be reported on? How will data be collected?

All other details and enabling component information is being developed and information will be provided once the coordinator grants process is completed.

Question: Will support and resources be provided to assist host organisations with the recruitment process? Do we have a dedicated employment strategy or service to use?

Yes, support and resources will be provided to assist successful host organisations with recruitment of coordinators. Employment support services are being investigated as part of the Shared Services Hub component of the new Program.

Question: Who are Nation Partners and what is their role?

The Joint Management Committee (JMC) has engaged Nation Partners to help LLS and Landcare NSW facilitate and design the implementation plan for the new program.

Nation Partners were procured to assist the JMC to prepare program documents within a short timeframe, by 31st August, and based on existing reports and feedback.

Nation Partners have prepared the draft package which will be reviewed by the JMC and the Working Group with appropriate probity measures in place.

Question: When will more information be made available regarding the new Program?

More information will be made available as soon as possible. Key elements that the JMC and LLS have worked through or are working on include:

- Extension of existing coordinator arrangements
- Design of the grants package
- Review and refinement of the business case to finalise the new program (Nation Partners)
- Development of a final package (grants and refined/revised program) for the approval of the Minister.

Question: Given the delay with the commencement of the new Program, will the Program still conclude 30 June 2027?

Yes.

Question: What will the salary scale be for RLC and LLC positions under the new Program?

Specific details regarding salary scales will be made available when the grant guidelines are released.

The strategic business case developed last year was based on as a guide, the maximum hourly rate for LLCs being \$45/hour, \$55 for RLCs. At the time it was based on 2022 wages, but this will change to align with current pay scales.

This information will become available when the grant guidelines are made available, hopefully in the next few weeks.