



## Review of the Australian Community Landcare Futures framework

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The federal government plans to invest an additional \$48 million over five years, from 2022 to 2027, to further support the existing *Regional Land Partnership program*. This program supports community and/or 'grassroots' natural resource management, providing social and environmental benefits through volunteering and mitigating climate change. The additional funding aims to:

- coordinate and unify community natural resource management,
- result in targeted, efficient and effective local climate action,
- assist land managers in entering carbon markets and emerging agricultural and biodiversity programs,
- enable delivery of the national drought, threatened species, national soils and national climate resilience and adaptation strategies,
- move Australia closer to the UN sustainable development goals,
- help ecosystem restoration,
- and work towards Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target.

The *Australian Community Landcare Futures framework* was developed by the National Landcare Network (NLN) in collaboration with State and Territory Organisations, representing 6,000 Landcare groups and networks and over 160,000 community landcarers across Australia.

Community Landcare groups will focus on managing soil, land, vegetation and biodiversity across Australia while building social cohesion and resilience in local communities. A report written by KPMG in 2021 noted that Landcare participation produced a health and well-being benefit of \$1,347 per person per year across 48,000 participants. Therefore, a community led approach to resource management and conservation will have a dual benefit to health and wellbeing of local landscape and its people. A community-based approach also provides better resilience and climate adaptation interventions and strategies when designed alongside national priorities and strategies.



The framework is supported by following three Landcare Futures programs.

*The Community Investment program* will invest in local communities to deliver on national, regional and local natural resource management priorities. This program aims to secure targeted investment in resource management and stewardship priorities of local Landcare communities. Local Landcare groups have the knowledge and resources available to implement projects effectively and efficiently. Many have planned project proposals ready to go as well as access to the Bushfire Recovery Grants Program model for investing in local Landcare projects.

*The Environmental Markets Leadership program* will build indigenous and community natural resource management leadership to support landholder participation in carbon plus markets. The program will encourage landowners to be at the forefront of sustainable practice and emerging environmental markets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This program will also support the Agriculture and Biodiversity Stewardship Market Scheme legislation with key Landcare representatives playing an advisory role. The program will be implemented across eight Landcare State and Territory Organisations representing 100 Landcare Future leaders each year. Training and accreditation in carbon and biodiversity assessment tools will be provided to Landcare leaders through the Environmental Markets Capacity Building Program.

*The Innovation program* will provide processes and a platform for knowledge sharing across Australian grassroots Landcare networks, delivered by a national Facilitator to link the three priority programs. The program will provide best practice policies for governments, industry and stakeholders to use, hosted by the NLN.

The work of Community Landcare is expected to deliver on the following six outcomes nationwide:

1. deliver sustainable agricultural, biodiversity stewardship and climate action outcomes,
2. increase volunteer participation for better land stewardship and community resilience in urban, suburban, regional and rural Australia,
3. improve fire and flood resilience,
4. enhance community the Landcare network's role in regional planning,
5. respond to and aid recovery of community and natural resources to climate change, bushfire, flood and drought,
6. build social capital, resilience and capacity for land stewardship.



Head to the Landcare Australia website (<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-get-involved/findagroup/?postcode=>) to search for community Landcare groups in your area.