

The Landcare Movement in Australia

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Landcare is defined as a grassroots movement of groups and individuals across Australia who share a vision to protect, enhance, or restore the natural environment in their communities. It involves community action such as sharing knowledge, building skills, improving biodiversity, and creating healthier landscapes and resilient communities. The movement emphasizes environmental conservation and sustainable land management through active local participation.



This approach enables people to actively care for the natural environment in their community, focusing on collaborative efforts to improve ecosystems and landscapes. Landcare is inclusive and community-led, celebrating the contributions of diverse groups working together for environmental stewardship.

[\(https://katanninglandcare.org.au/\)](https://katanninglandcare.org.au/)

Landcare provides a variety of benefits across environmental, social, and economic dimensions:

- **Environmental benefits** include improving biodiversity by restoring native habitats and increasing ecosystem resilience, as well as enhancing sustainable land management practices that protect soil and water quality.
- **Social benefits** are significant, with participation in Landcare linked to improved well-being and community connection. A recent [2025 Landcare Australia report](#) found that involvement in Landcare activities generates health and productivity benefits, contributing to a positive impact on participants' mental and physical health.
- **Economic benefits** arise from sustainable agricultural practices promoted through Landcare, which can lead to increased farm yields and resilience. The economic value of these benefits has been estimated at over \$190 million annually for the Landcare community, with an average benefit of around \$1,347 per person per year when factoring in health, productivity, and disaster resilience.
- Additionally, Landcare supports capacity building by increasing the literacy and skills of land managers and primary producers to implement sustainable practices, further enhancing the long-term sustainability of agriculture and natural resource use.
- Corporate volunteering and community involvement in Landcare also foster a stronger connection to nature and environmental stewardship among participants.

These benefits collectively illustrate how Landcare nurtures healthier ecosystems, stronger communities, and more resilient economies through collaborative, local action.

Landcare adapts to the diversity of natural and developed environments by focusing on specific types that address the unique challenges and opportunities of each landscape. Here's an overview of the different types of Landcare according to various environments and the benefits:



[\(https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/upper-deua-catchment-landcare-group/media-release-braidwood-changing-times/\)](https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/upper-deua-catchment-landcare-group/media-release-braidwood-changing-times/)

Rural Landcare - Soil conservation, erosion control, sustainable farming practices, pest and weed management, water management, ecological restoration, tree planting for shelter belts and shade, to improve farm productivity while enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Urban Landcare - Urban greening, native planting, stormwater management, habitat restoration, community gardening, and environmental education to create healthier urban ecosystems, improve air and water quality, and foster community engagement with nature.

Coastal Landcare - Dune stabilization, mangrove and wetland restoration, marine habitat protection, controlling invasive species, reducing pollution runoff to protect coastal ecosystems from erosion and degradation, support marine biodiversity, and enhance resilience to climate change.



Indigenous Landcare - Integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern conservation, fire management, protection of sacred sites, and native species restoration to uphold Indigenous stewardship, cultural heritage, and sustainable land management practices.

Regional or Catchment Landcare - Coordinated efforts across multiple landholders and communities to manage water quality, habitat corridors, pest control, and landscape connectivity to achieve broad-scale environmental outcomes that transcend individual properties.

<https://mli.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Mason-800x400.jpg>

Corporate and School Landcare - Corporate volunteering in environmental projects, school-based environmental education, tree planting, and habitat restoration to build environmental awareness and stewardship within organizations and younger generations.

Each Landcare type tailors its approach to the specific ecological and social context of the environment it serves. This diversity ensures that Landcare's impact is relevant, effective, and inclusive, reflecting the interconnectedness of natural and human systems.

Some of the major players in the Landcare movement in Australia are:

1. **Landcare Australia**



Landcare Australia is an independent, national not-for-profit organisation established in 1989. For over 35 years, Landcare Australia has worked at the forefront of community and corporate engagement in environmental conservation and sustainable land management with activities that protect and conserve Australia's land, water, soils, plants, animals and ecosystems. landcareaustralia.org.au

[\(https://landcareaustralia.org.au/\)](https://landcareaustralia.org.au/)

2. **National Landcare Network (NLN)**

National Landcare Network is the national peak body for Landcare. The NLN supports State and Territory Landcare Organisations (STLOs); peak bodies supporting and representing Landcare groups in each of the state and territories

<https://nlm.org.au/>



[\(https://nlm.org.au/\)](https://nlm.org.au/)

3. **Australian Government Departments**

Primarily the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), which provide policy, funding, and program support for Landcare initiatives.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/>

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/natural-heritage-trust>

4. **State and Territory Natural Resource Management (NRM) Bodies**

Regional bodies such as Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and other state-based NRM groups that coordinate local Landcare activities and funding.

<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/regions/>

5. **Environmental NGOs and Community Organizations**

- **Greening Australia**— Works on large-scale restoration projects, including tree planting and habitat restoration, often partnering with Landcare groups. <https://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/>
- **The Nature Conservancy Australia** — Engages in conservation projects that align with sustainable land management and community involvement. <https://www.natureaustralia.org.au/>
- **Bush Heritage Australia** — Focuses on protecting and restoring private lands of high conservation value. <https://www.bushheritage.org.au/>

6. Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)

- Focuses on Indigenous land management, supporting Indigenous ranger programs and integrating traditional knowledge with conservation efforts, often overlapping with Indigenous Landcare. <https://www.ilsc.gov.au/>

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Citizen science projects have become vital tools supporting Landcare by engaging communities in data collection, environmental monitoring, and conservation efforts. Here are five of the most utilized and impactful citizen science projects in Australia that align closely with Landcare objectives:

Aussie Backyard Bird Count



- **Focus:** Monitoring bird populations and biodiversity in urban and rural areas.
- **Contribution to Landcare:** Helps Landcare groups track bird species diversity and habitat health, informing habitat restoration and conservation efforts.
- **Organizers:** BirdLife Australia
- **Website:** aussiebirdcount.org.au

(<https://sheppardgv.com.au/events/calendar/event-details/!/323/event/aussie-bird-count-2026>)

2. FrogID

- **Focus:** Recording frog calls to monitor frog population, species distributions and species diversity over time.
- **Contribution to Landcare:** Provides data on amphibian populations, which are key indicators of ecosystem health, supporting wetland and riparian restoration projects.
- **Organizers:** Australian Museum
- **Website:** frogid.net.au



(frogid.net.au)

3. iNaturalist Australia



- **Focus:** Biodiversity recording platform where users upload photos of plants, animals, and fungi.
- **Contribution to Landcare:** Enables Landcare groups to monitor local biodiversity, detect invasive species, and document native flora and fauna for conservation planning.
- **Organizers:** Atlas of Living Australia and iNaturalist
- **Website:** inaturalist.ala.org.au

(inaturalist.ala.org.au)

4. Waterbug Blitz

- **Focus:** Community monitoring of freshwater macroinvertebrates to assess waterway health.
- **Contribution to Landcare:** Assists Landcare groups in evaluating water quality and ecosystem condition in rivers and streams, guiding restoration and management actions.
- **Organizers:** Healthy Waterways (Queensland) and partners
- **Website:** waterbugblitz.org.au



waterbugblitz.org.au

5. Wild Pollinator Count

- **Focus:** Recording and identifying native pollinators like bees and butterflies.



- **Contribution:** Helps Landcare groups understand pollinator diversity and health, critical for ecosystem functioning and agricultural productivity.
- **Organizer:** Australian National University (ANU)
- **Website:** wildpollinatorcount.com.au

These projects empower individuals and community groups to contribute valuable environmental data, enhancing Landcare's capacity to manage landscapes sustainably. They foster local stewardship, build environmental literacy, and provide actionable insights for restoration and conservation.

wildpollinatorcount.com.au

(Material for this article sourced from all of the "Landcare" organisations outlined above)
