

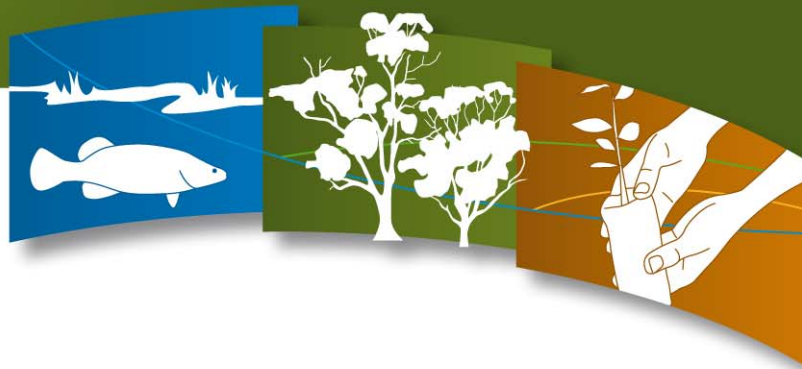
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

Landcare Support Implementation Plan

July 2009



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

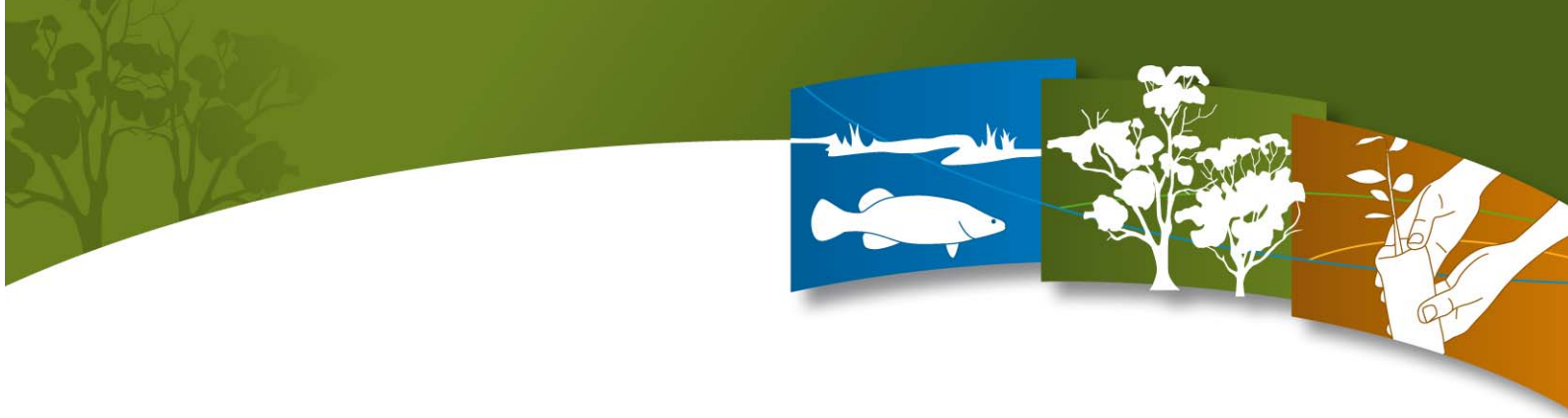


Document name: **Landcare Support Policy Implementation Plan**

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1. Scope

1.1 Landcare Support Policy

The policy outlines the level of support that the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will provide to the Landcare community from date of endorsement.

1.2 Policy development

The Shire-based Landcare coordinator model concluded 30 June 2009 due to changes in Australian Government investment programs that historically funded eight Landcare coordinators hosted by local government across the region.

In response to the issue of reduced Landcare support, the North Central CMA formed a Landcare Steering Committee consisting of a North Central CMA Board member, Natural Resource Management Committee member, the CEO and an Executive Manager. This committee determined that the necessary steps were to, through a North Central CMA staff working group and the Regional Landcare Coordinator, undertake a community consultation process.

The data collected will contribute to the development of a Landcare Support Policy and Landcare Support Implementation Plan, to be submitted to the North Central CMA Board for endorsement in August 2009.

1.3 Objective

The objective of the policy is to provide the greatest level of support to the Landcare community that is equitable and achievable across North Central Victoria with the resources available. Providing facilitation support to Landcare seeks to catalyse development and assist implementation of community-based initiatives that contribute to regional natural resource management outcomes.

1.4 Principles of support

Inclusiveness – ensure the Landcare community is represented in decision making

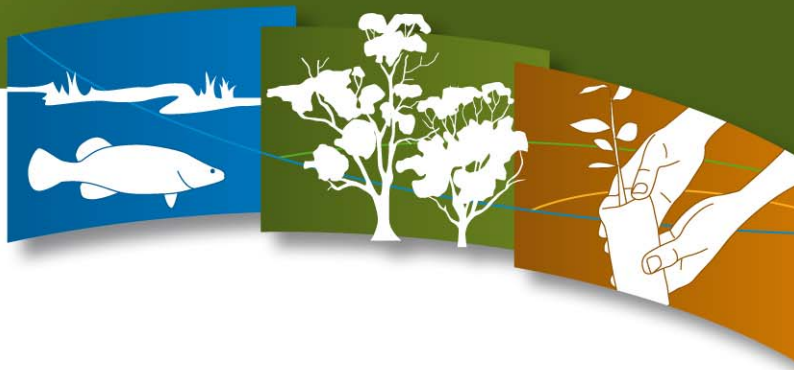
Commitment – commit to a shared vision for Landcare so that everyone's actions increases effectiveness

Transparency – make transparent decisions on all levels where Landcare support is concerned

1.5 Outcomes

Following delivery of the Landcare Support Implementation Plan, the North Central CMA expects to provide a level of support that will result in a Landcare community with an increased ability to:

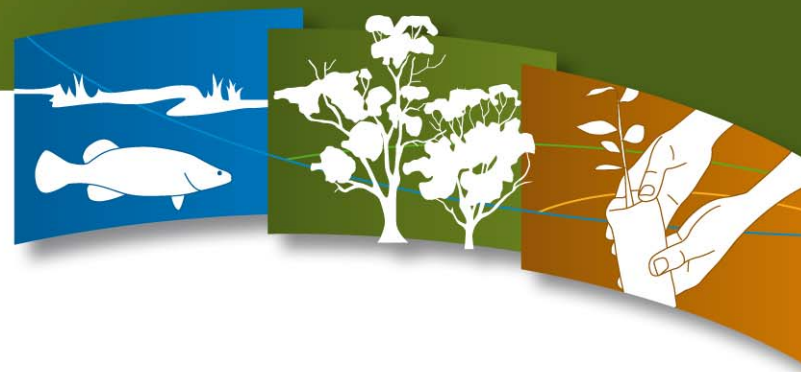
- remain viable in the long-term
- match local needs with regional priorities
- have strong informal internal and external networks, including neighbouring groups and natural resource management agencies
- acquire improved skills to affect change in their own communities
- have access to information and resources to support natural resource management initiatives in their area
- develop and manage viable formal networks



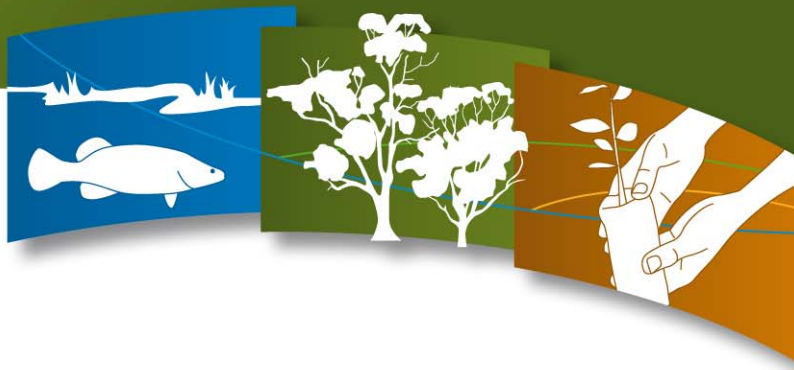
- plan, implement and report on projects
- educate members to better manage their properties in a sustainable manner
- overcome problems, identify and work to enhance assets and locate resources to support local action.

1.6 Key deliverables for 2009-10

Policy Direction	Key activity / task	Start	End	Additional information
Provide relevant, timely and concise information using the most effective approaches as preferred by the Landcare community.	Produce a report based on outcomes from Landcare Support review Process for the community.	16/7/09	30/9/09	Communicate to groups; local government and consultation attendees through local media, North Central CMA website, email and postal services
	Compile an accurate Landcare contacts database with information on preferred method of communication from each group.	1/8/09	31/10/09	
	Create an 'agency and other' key contacts list by topic for use by the Landcare community.	1/9/09	31/12/09	Post on website and include in mailout
	Produce an annual grants guide for the region.	started	15/8/09	
	Review and update the North Central CMA website and Landcare Gateway with relevant information bimonthly or as needed. Link from North Central CMA website to the Victorian Landcare Gateway.	1/08/09	30/6/10	Review first week of every month
	Promote the use of the Victorian Landcare Gateway for community to use as a tool to access information from across the region and post their own information, events and publications.	1/11/09	30/6/10	Distribute information in accordance with Landcare contacts database
	Produce a bi-monthly newsletter with information about events, funding opportunities and updates from groups, networks and agencies.			Across region as needed
	Establish regular, ongoing segments in local media, especially newspapers and radio.	1/8/09	30/6/10	Paper mail out to be in conjunction with this.
		1/9/09	30/6/10	Paid advertising space when required



Policy Direction	Key activity / task	Start	End	Additional information
<p>Support the development and maintenance of Landcare groups and networks.</p> <p>Engage with the Landcare community to gain knowledge of local priorities to ensure a strong working relationship.</p>	Support developing networks by facilitating forums for groups interested in learning more about and becoming involved in a network.	started	30/6/10	As requested until funds are exhausted
	Provide Start-Up Grants to new or reactivated groups and networks as part of the State Volunteer Recruitment Initiative.	started	30/6/10	As needed
	Facilitate North Central CMA participation in group networking meetings (formerly steering committees) and Conservation Management Networks.	started	30/6/10	Ensure CMA representative present
	Organise quarterly meetings with Landcare Network representatives.	1/8/09	30/6/10	4 meetings
<p>Provide training opportunities to Landcare groups and networks to enhance skills and knowledge.</p>	Provide 2 training forums on topics such as: grant application writing, succession planning, Landcare Gateway website training, membership recruitment, Junior Landcare, governance, etc.	1/9/09	30/6/10	
<p>Engage Landcare as a service and information provider to deliver components of CMA programs and projects where local Landcare involvement will add value to the delivery of environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Facilitate communication, knowledge and skills exchange between Landcare and the wider NRM community.</p>	Involve the Landcare Community in the renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy.	started	30/6/10	
	Commission case study for evaluation of a current project that has operated in this manner to learn from process and inform the North Central CMA on how to move forward with this type of model.	started	31/3/10	
	Inform Landcare groups of projects in their area at the beginning of project planning stages and liaise with North Central CMA project staff to build partnerships in delivering environmental outcomes with Landcare groups.	1/9/09	30/11/09	



Policy Direction	Key activity / task	Start	End	Additional information
Seek, tailor and implement funding programs to support groups and networks and their activities.	Seek additional support for Landcare in all government funding proposals where appropriate.	started	30/6/10	As opportunities arise
	Review the Second Generation Landcare Grants Program guidelines and application and evaluation processes to make it easier for Landcare groups to apply for, carry out and report on projects.	7/7/09	10/15/10	Open for applications once completed
Coordinate monitoring, evaluation and learning components of projects delivered through Landcare to demonstrate and promote environmental and social outcomes. Promote the role and value of community-based natural resource management by Landcare.	Develop and implement a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) plan.	1/10/09	30/06/10	Distribute all productions to relevant stakeholders, including government bodies, the private sector and the wider natural resource management community
	Produce an Annual Landcare Report Card.	15/10/09	30/05/10	
	Produce a Most Significant Change Stories Booklet for 2008–09.	started	30/04/10	

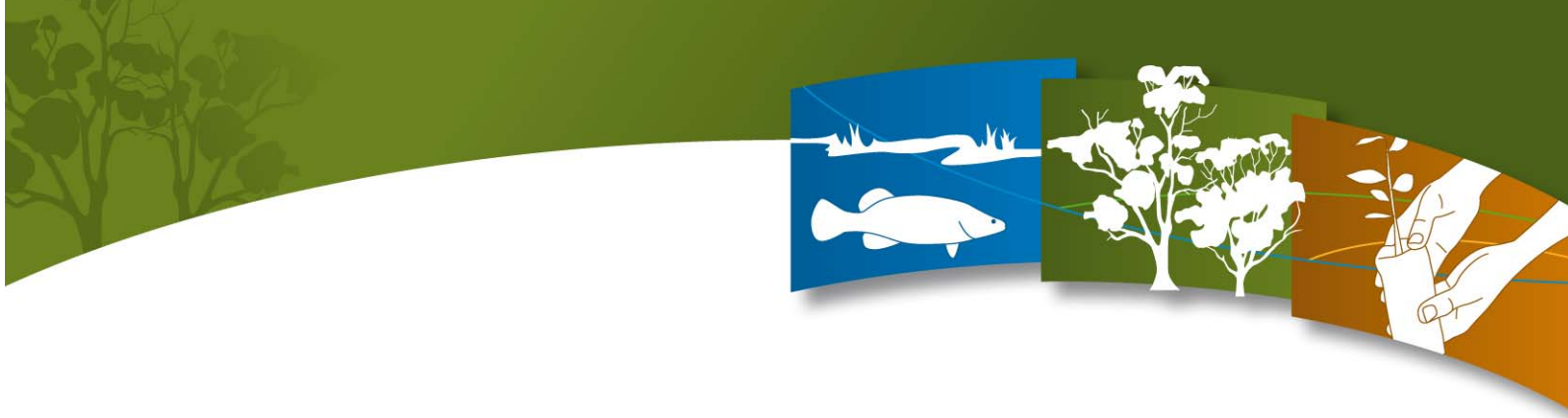
2. Additional agencies

The following agencies will be involved in the delivery of the Landcare Support Implementation Plan by providing information to the North Central CMA about resources available to Landcare, conducting joint events and coordinating potential partnership projects:

- Conservation Management Networks
- Landcare Networks
- All local governments in north central Victoria
- Department of Primary Industries
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Planning and Community Development.

3. Responsible Officer

The Regional Landcare Coordinator will have primary responsibility to implement tasks with the assistance of the North Central CMA's various business units.



4. Reporting

The Implementation Plan will be posted on the North Central CMA Website and progress against the Key Deliverables will be updated quarterly. A MERI plan will also be developed for the project and will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Key Deliverables after a 12 month period.

