

Memorandum of Understanding Landcare NSW and Local Land Services

1 Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a foundation document for collaboration between Landcare NSW and NSW Local Land Services. It underpins the partnership at the State level and provides guidance for building complementary relationships at regional and local levels.

2 Context

Landcare NSW (LNSW) and Local Land Services (LLS) have different roles and strengths but share a common purpose in fostering communities to address complex challenges faced by land managers in natural resource management, biosecurity, farm productivity and community resilience.

Nationally, NRM Regions Australia and the National Landcare Network have signed a Statement of Common Purpose whose objective is to:

Foster communities that are aware, engaged and active in ensuring Australian landscapes are healthier, better protected, better managed, more resilient and provide essential ecosystem services in a changing world.

The NSW Government's policy priorities include:

Well-connected communities with quality local environments.

All tiers of government recognise Landcare provides an effective method to engage and resource landholders and local communities in land and natural resource management.

This MoU was first signed on 1 September 2015 to reflect the LNSW/LLS partnership and support delivery of the NSW Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative 2015-2019.

It was updated in 2020 to reflect the growth of the partnership, to support delivery of the next iteration of the NSW Government's Landcare policy – the NSW Landcare Program 2019-2023 – and to explore and develop further initiatives that may result from the partnership.

The MoU is overseen by the LNSW/LLS Joint Management Committee (JMC).

3 Parties to the MoU

This MoU is made between Landcare NSW and NSW Local Land Services, together the 'Parties'.

4 Partnership Statement

The Parties agree the following statement encapsulates the benefits and purpose of their partnership:

Landcare NSW and Local Land Services are stronger together in achieving outcomes for the communities and landscapes of NSW.

5 Objectives

The objectives of the MoU are to:

1. Provide guidance and a framework to build and maintain a productive relationship between LNSW and LLS to fulfil their respective missions, ie:
 - Provide leadership, skills and resources to empower Landcarers in NSW to have all that they need to care for our land, environment and communities (LNSW)
 - Building and sustaining resilient communities in productive, healthy landscapes (LLS).
2. Harness knowledge, skills and resources to generate greater value than would otherwise be achieved by the Parties working in isolation.
3. Agree values and principles to underpin relationships at all levels while respecting the inherent differences of each Party's state, regional and local governance structures.
4. Provide a framework for joint delivery of Schedules to this MOU including but not limited to agreed programs, projects and initiatives, including the NSW Landcare Program.

6 MoU Structure

This MoU is a guiding document for the partnership between LNSW and LLS. Schedules agreed by the Joint Management Committee are attached to provide detail on specific initiatives delivered through the partnership.

7 Governance

The Chairs of LNSW and LLS are jointly accountable for the health, growth and development of the partnership and to jointly prepare information and updates for the Minister with portfolio responsibility for the NSW Government's Landcare policy.

The JMC is responsible for the MoU and the co-design, co-governance and co-delivery of the NSW Landcare Program and other initiatives agreed by the Parties.

The specific governance requirements of each program, project or initiative will be collaboratively developed by the Parties and will become a Schedule to the MoU.

The JMC is comprised of:

- Chairs of LNSW and LLS
- CEOs of LNSW and LLS
- Additional representatives of LNSW and LLS as agreed by the Committee
- Landcare LLS and LNSW program managers
- Secretariat

The JMC may invite additional participants to present and report on MoU schedules as required.

8 Values

The Parties recognise collaboration between the Landcare community and LLS is influenced by many factors, including local and regional structures, physical, social and economic conditions, and the nature of the communities and stakeholders involved.

The Parties agree to display leadership by building a relationship based on trust, respect and understanding in which all involved are focused on identifying and working towards a common purpose.

Collaboration between the Parties is founded on agreed values, intentions and practices, as reflected in the following statements.

- We value the missions of LNSW and LLS
- We value our partnership and understand that as a government-community partnership we are stronger together
- We value our trust and confidence in each of our organisations, our people and our communities
- We value our focus on our shared common purpose and the shared benefits we create
- We understand that to be successful a partnership needs to be nurtured
- We value productivity and efficiency and seek to maximise return on investment
- We value our respect for each other and work to understand each other
- We desire to be participatory, transparent, equitable, inclusive and accountable
- We value the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of our relationship and its value to stakeholders and investors
- We desire to seek consensus
- We understand the benefit of face-to-face communication and our focus on supporting each other
- We pledge our ongoing commitment to our partnership's success.

9 Practices

The Parties agree to uphold practices that support a healthy and productive partnership. The parties will:

- Uphold the key principle of co-design, co-governance and co-delivery
- Participate in strategic planning to address risks and maximise present and emerging opportunities to achieve shared goals

- Monitor and evaluate performance against the undertakings in the MoU and its schedules
- Complement each other's strengths and respect each other's roles
- Seek new and improved solutions in recognition that innovation is achieved through creativity, problem solving and 'permission not to get it right the first time'
- Pursue opportunities to achieve open, regular and effective communication, for example:
 - dialogue between the LNSW Council and LLS Board of Chairs
 - networking opportunities at state, regional and local level
- Actively promote the achievements and capability created through the partnership to government, investors and key stakeholders
- Seek opportunities to build community willingness and capacity to engage in NRM
- Learn from experience, build the evidence-base, adapt and constantly improve
- Acknowledge, promote and celebrate the achievements of Landcarers.

10 Risks

The Parties acknowledge there are risks to the successful implementation of this MoU. The Parties agree to monitor, report on, and manage risks in accordance with JMC's Risk Management Plan and Register.

11 Communication and Media

LNSW and LLS agree to inform each other with respect to any communication with the media or third parties, and any public communications, that involve issues of mutual interest or issues which concern the other party.

Where possible, where a matter involves issues of mutual interest, LNSW and LLS will work together to develop a joint and consistent approach to the communications strategy. The parties will agree on co-branding arrangements for all joint initiatives.

12 Review

The Parties agree to reflect on and discuss the relationship to ensure the intent of the MoU is being fulfilled at all scales to frame the partnership and achieve effective collaboration.

The Parties agree to formally review the operation and implementation of the MoU at the end of each financial year. Any amendments must be considered, reviewed and agreed by the JMC.

13 Duration and termination

The MoU will operate continuously from the date of signature and will remain in force until it is terminated in accordance with the paragraph below.

The MoU may be terminated at any time however termination requires at least three months' written notice of an intention to terminate or such other notice as agreed.

Any termination may only be carried out by the Chair of Landcare NSW and the Chair of LLS.

14 Legal Status of MoU

This MoU is administrative in nature and is not intended, in whole or in part, to create, maintain or govern legal relations or obligations between the Parties. Any obligations arising under legislation for each organisation are not affected by this MoU. Nothing in this MoU or activities carried out pursuant to it give rise to or create legal partnership or relationship of principal and agent between LNSW and LLS.

This MoU does not create an exclusive relationship between LNSW and LLS. Any existing agreements between parties and other entities are not affected by this MoU and each part may engage with other individuals or community groups to form relationships or partnerships with respect to the same or similar subject matter in this MoU.

15 Signatories

Each party signs this MoU as an acknowledgement that it will use its best efforts to work collaboratively with the other to reach the objectives and principles stated in this MoU.



Landcare NSW

Stephanie Cameron, Chair



Local Land Services

Richard Bull, Chair

1 December 2020

Schedule 1 – NSW Landcare Program 2019-2023

Overview

The 'NSW Landcare Program 2019 – 2023' (the Program) is a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc, supported by the NSW Government and overseen by a Joint Management Committee.

The Program builds on a number of previous Landcare support initiatives, including the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative 2015-19; and regional Landcare investment made through National Landcare Program and Catchment Action.

The Program recognises the value of Government and Landcare working together to deliver positive outcomes for communities delivering natural resource management, agriculture and land use outcomes via collaboration, participation and on ground action.

The 'NSW Landcare Program 2019 – 2023' has three primary objectives:

1. Capacity to Deliver: A program that supports community capacity to deliver outcomes in natural resource management, agriculture, improved land use and community initiatives
2. Community Participation: A program that enables community participation in natural resource management, agriculture, improved land use and community initiatives
3. Collaborations: A program that supports inclusive and productive Landcare collaborations

The NSW Landcare Program Implementation Plan 2019-2023 and Strategy 2019-2023 detail the context, program logic and delivery method of the Program.

The 2019 – 2023 NSW Landcare Program – Landcare NSW Inc. Core Services Delivery deed specifically underpins the delivery components and milestones of the Program.

Related documents

1. NSW Landcare Implementation Plan 2019-2023
2. NSW Landcare Strategy 2019-2023
3. NSW Landcare Program - Landcare NSW Program Delivery 2019-2023 Funding Deed