**Fact Sheet**

# Hunter LLS- Regional Land Partnerships

The Australian Government has released its $1.1 billion National Landcare Program (NLP2) Program Overview for funding between 2017 and 2023.

The new program is a total investment of $1.1 billion dollars, divided into a range of programs.

Details of each program can be found on their website [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au/)

**Within this Fact sheet, we cover the following questions:**

 [What are the key components of the new NLP2 Program? 2](#_Toc499973027)

[What is the Regional Land Partnership Program? 2](#_Toc499973028)

[What are the sort of activities that the current NLP has funded through the regional delivery? 2](#_Toc499973029)

[What is the focus of the new Regional Land Partnerships Program? 2](#_Toc499973030)

[What are the NLP2 priority species, places, communities and targets in the Hunter Region? 3](#_Toc499973031)

[Threatened Species Strategy Species 3](#_Toc499973032)

[Threatened Ecological Community 3](#_Toc499973033)

[Ramsar Wetlands 4](#_Toc499973034)

[World Heritage Area 4](#_Toc499973035)

[Soil Priorities 4](#_Toc499973036)

[General Priorities 4](#_Toc499973037)

[Will there be funding for Community Groups? 4](#_Toc499973038)

[What about the Regional Landcare Facilitator? 4](#_Toc499973039)

[How do we define Landcare? 5](#_Toc499973040)

[Who is eligible to apply for the Regional Land Partnerships funding? 5](#_Toc499973041)

[What is the role of Hunter Local Land Services? 5](#_Toc499973042)

[What will Hunter Local Land Services do for NLP2? 5](#_Toc499973043)

[Where can I find more information, including the proposed Tender requirements? 6](#_Toc499973044)

[What does the Tender process involve and what’s my role? 6](#_Toc499973045)

[Partners are important to our NLP2 Bid. How do we define Partners? 6](#_Toc499973050)

What are the key components of the new NLP2 Program?

The new program is a total investment of $1.1 billion dollars, divided into a range of programs:

* Regional Land Partnerships (the new regional delivery stream) - $450 Million
* Indigenous Protected Areas - $15M for new, $93 Million for support to existing
* Establishment of the Centre for Invasive Species - $16 Million
* Red Imported Fire Ant - $50 Million
* World Heritage Site management - $47.4 Million
* Reef 2050 - $107.7 Million
* Small environment grants for community - $5 Million
* Smart Farms Program - $134 Million ($50M small farm grants; $60M agriculture partnerships; $24M Strengthening Landcare)
* Support for ongoing initiatives (e.g. 20 million trees) – remainder unspecified

What is the Regional Land Partnership Program?

The Regional Land Partnership Program is the component of NLP2 that replaces the regional NRM funding stream that currently funds Hunter Local Land Services (and 56 other NRM bodies nationally) to provide technical and engagement services and grant funding to the Hunter region’s community.

From June 30 2018 to June 30 2023, the Australian Government will make $450 million in funding available nationally through the Regional Land Partnerships program. This is 20% less than what was allocated in the first phase of NLP. This amount will be distributed across the 56 regions (referred to as ‘Management Units’ in the NLP2 documentation) through a formal tendering process. The Australian Government will not provide a breakdown of the distribution across Management Units, but have stressed that their investment decisions will be determined through their priorities (which have been [mapped](http://erin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c2606f315ee74d899c4f7ae478c29ccc) across the country) as well as the quality of the projects submitted.

What are the sort of activities that the current NLP has funded through the regional delivery?

The current 2014-2018 regional funding stream from the current NLP funds activities focused on Threatened Species, Traditional Owner Capacity Building and Engagement, Community Groups Skills and Knowledge, the Regional Landcare Facilitator and Innovative Agriculture.

In the Hunter region this investment has primarily funded Land Management Grants, capacity building activities for farmers, Oyster industry partnerships programs, Aboriginal tertiary training, Box Woodland recovery projects, Agricultural extension and a range of workshops, Woodland Birds projects and Landcare Partnership programs among others. In addition 20% of the NLP funding has been provided to the community through grants for threatened species recovery, local community priorities, and Traditional Owner land management grants.

What is the focus of the new Regional Land Partnerships Program?

The Australian Government has made it clear that the new 2018-2023 NLP2 program will be more focused and targeted than the first round of NLP. This responds to findings in the [recent review](http://www.nrm.gov.au/national-landcare-programme/public-consultation-review) of the regional component of the NLP. In addition, NLP2 will focus its investment primarily on projects that deliver on Australia’s international obligations and/or national priorities.

In line with this overarching focus, the Regional Land Partnerships component has six proposed outcomes that reflect these obligations and priorities (2 focused on agriculture, 4 focused on environment). These are:

1. By 2023, the ecological character of **Ramsar sites** is maintained or improved
2. By 2023, the trajectory of **Threatened Species Strategy** priority species is improved
3. By 2023, the outstanding universal values of natural and mixed **World Heritage Areas** are maintained or enhanced by a reduction in invasive species threats
4. By 2023, the condition of nationally **threatened ecological communities** on private land is improved
5. By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of **land management practices** that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation
6. By 2023, agriculture systems have a **capacity to adapt** to significant changes in climate, weather and markets.

An indicative national allocation of this budget across the full Regional Land Partnerships program is provided in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category of services** | **Indicative split (%)** |
| Core services, such as Strategic NRM Planning, community engagement and monitoring, evaluation and reporting on project progress | 20 |
| Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Services | 8 |
| Threatened Species Services | 30 |
| Ramsar Services | 10 |
| Threatened Ecological Communities Services | 10 |
| World Heritage Services | 5 |
| Soil, Biodiversity and Vegetation Services | 12 |
| Supporting Agriculture Systems to Adapt to Change Services | 5 |

What are the NLP2 priority species, places, communities and targets in the Hunter Region?

The [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) website has a mapping function that provides this information for all Management Units across Australia. For your convenience, we have summarised the Hunter regional priorities in the following table. The complete interactive [map is viewable here](http://erin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c2606f315ee74d899c4f7ae478c29ccc).

**Management Unit: Hunter, NSW**

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|  | **Threatened Species Strategy Species**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Scientific Name** | **% of distribution within Hunter Region (KL)** | **Endemic to Region (KL)** |
| [Australasian Bittern (Bird)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=1001) | *Botaurus poiciloptilus* | 3.41 | No |
| [Eastern Curlew (Bird)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=847) | *Numenius madagascariensis* | 1.34 | No |
| [*Homoranthus darwinioides*(Plant)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=12974) | *Homoranthus darwinioides* | 32.66 | No |
| [Magenta Lilly Pilly (Plant)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=20307) | *Syzygium paniculatum* | 50.33 | No |
| [Malleefowl (Bird)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=934) | *Leipoa ocellata* | 0.02 | No |
| [Regent Honeyeater (Bird)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=82338) | *Anthochaera phrygia* | 8.00 | No |
| [Swift Parrot (Bird)](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=744) | *Lathamus discolor* | 5.51 | No |

**Threatened Ecological Community**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Community Name** | **% of distribution within Hunter (KL)** | **Endemic to unit (KL)** |
| [Central Hunter Valley eucalypt forest and woodland](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=130) | 100.00 | Yes |
| [Grey Box (Eucalyptus microcarpa) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=86) | 0.11 | No |
| [Hunter Valley Weeping Myall (Acacia pendula) Woodland](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=44) | 100.00 | Yes |
| [Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=76) | 2.22 | No |
| [Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=101) | 27.78 | No |
| [Natural grasslands on basalt and fine-textured alluvial plains of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=88) | 0.09 | No |
| [Posidonia australis seagrass meadows of the Manning-Hawkesbury ecoregion](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=127) | 40.71 | No |
| [Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=118) | 3.66 | No |
| [Upland Basalt Eucalypt Forests of the Sydney Basin Bioregion](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=60) | 2.93 | No |
| [White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicshowcommunity.pl?id=43) | 2.02 | No |

**Ramsar Wetlands**

|  |
| --- |
| **Name** |
| [Hunter Estuary Wetlands](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/ramsardetails.pl?refcode=24) |
| [Myall Lakes](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/ramsardetails.pl?refcode=52) |

**World Heritage Area**

|  |
| --- |
| **Name** |
| [Gondwana Rainforests of Australia](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105135) |
| [The Greater Blue Mountains Area](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105127) |

**Soil Priorities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Priority** | **Class** |
| Hillslope Erosion | Medium |
| Acidification | Medium |
| Soil Carbon | Medium |

**General Priorities*** Native vegetation and biodiversity
* Supporting agriculture systems to adapt to change
 |

Will there be funding for Community Groups?

Yes, there is a requirement that 20% of the ***Regional Land Partnerships*** NRM project funds are allocated to community projects with Landcare-including small on ground works or engagement activities with community groups.

So we can better understand where community groups/Landcare are in our region, we have set up a **Mapping Form** where groups can map and identify their group location using a **simple** online tool. To register your group with us please contact one of our offices.

What about the Regional Landcare Facilitator?

Under NLP2, as part of core services, the RLF will be badged as the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator. Hunter Local Land Services propose that this role will continue to work with Landcare broadly providing support across both NRM and Agricultural activities.

How do we define Landcare?

We have adopted and refined the definition of Landcare from the Australian Government, Department of Agriculture as published on their web page.

Landcare is a unique grass-roots movement that started in the 1980s through initiatives to tackle degradation of farmland, public land and waterways caring for the land includes a range of activities such as:

* sustainable farm practices
* restoring native habitats and revegetation
* controlling weeds and pests
* developing and sharing local natural resource management skills and knowledge.

The movement includes landcare groups, farming systems groups, ‘Friends of’ groups, Pest Animal committees/community action groups and Indigenous land management groups.

Many farmers and landholders also undertake this important work but are not affiliated with a particular Landcare group.

Who is eligible to apply for the Regional Land Partnerships funding?

Any organisation is open to applying to be the Service Provider for this program. The successful providers will be determined through a formal Tender process. The Australian Government anticipates that the Tender period will be from early December until the end of February.

Tenderers must demonstrate that they can deliver *ALL* of the components of the Regional Land Partnerships program within the Management Unit, including core services. They must demonstrate capability and capacity to provide both environmental and agricultural services and deliver NRM projects relating to environment outcomes and NRM projects related to agricultural outcomes.

Consortium bids are welcomed including bids to run the program in multiple Management Units. However, the bid must demonstrate clearly how services will be delivered in each Management Unit separately and the Service Provider must retain a physical presence in each Management Unit for the life of the project. Having said that, the Australian Government is strongly encouraging partnerships for the delivery of the Regional Land Partnerships program.

What is the role of Hunter Local Land Services?

**Our Purpose** *We support productive agriculture and other land managers to provide enduring benefit for their economies, environments and communities.*

Local Land Services formed under the Local Land Services Act 2013, is one state wide organisation offering integrated services, delivered regionally and tailored for each community, industry and landscape.

We work to develop:

• resilient, self-reliant and prepared local communities

• biosecure, profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries

• healthy, diverse and connected natural environments.

The Hunter LLS region is one of NSW’s eleven Local Land Service regions. We work with land managers and the community to improve primary production within healthy landscapes. We help people make better decisions about the land they manage and assist rural and regional communities to be profitable and sustainable into the future. We connect people with groups, information, support and funding to improve agricultural productivity and better manage our natural resources.

Hunter LLS interacts with a broad range of stakeholders, from key industry groups who have an interest in improving agricultural production, to those that are members of advisory groups. Stakeholders have varying levels of interest and influence in relation to planning and project objectives. Our key stakeholder groups are collaborators and partners who support customer service delivery, including industry, community groups, non-government organisations and education providers.

What will Hunter Local Land Services do for NLP2?

Hunter Local Land Services intends on submitting a tender to be the service provider for the Hunter Management Unit. As part of that process, Hunter Local Land Services will be seeking to engage with groups, partners and members in the region to seek input on priorities and approaches for the new Regional Land Partnerships Program. This will be through a combination of mechanisms:

* Project planning- group meetings
* Project planning- individual meetings
* Drawing on existing formal and non-formal partnership activities (that align with NLP2 priorities)
* Phone calls and emails
* Sharing of project scoping documents, and seeking feedback and input
* Work collaboratively with neighbouring LLS and discuss project approach/collaboration opportunities across borders
* Discussions with stakeholders at a state level

**Please contact your local NRM staff ASAP if you have an opportunity coming up that we could use to have an individual discussion with your group or email** **admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au** **with NLP2 in the email subject line.**

Where can I find more information, including the proposed Tender requirements?

There is already a lot of information on the [Australian Government website](http://www.nrm.gov.au) www.nrm.gov.au. This includes information about all aspects of the program, and videos providing overviews for some components, including the Regional Land Partnerships and Smart Farms.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss the program further, or to arrange for a discussion with your group.

Admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au (with NLP2 in the title)

What does the Tender process involve and what’s my role?

Within Hunter Local Land Services- our approach involves the following rationale:

1. Where existing programs and efforts from NLP meet priorities within NLP2, we will work with existing partners to refine and review existing programs and efforts to develop our bid, and where relevant, invite new partners to be involved.
2. Where there are new priorities for NLP2, we will review the potential partners that are most closely linked, and contact them to be involved in project development, or work with partners who contact us and identify a potential role to deliver those priorities.
3. If a partner opportunity arises beyond the NLP2 bid, we will review and work on this in the same way as above, and consistent with our Partnership definition (below). Partnerships can develop at any time, and we acknowledge that not all partnerships will be in place for the NLP2 bid.
4. HLLS anticipates being a Lead partner for many aspects of the NLP2 bid, however this will not apply to all projects, and as per the definition below, partners can be defined in many ways.

Our overall approach includes:

* We will work with key partners, agencies, researchers, consultants and individuals who are most closely aligned with, share common goals, and are willing to work collaboratively with HLLS in the NLP2 program and formalise partnerships with those that are most crucial to delivering the long term program and working with HLLS over 5 years.
* Where existing formal partnerships are not already in place with Key Partners (i.e MOUs, Terms of References, Resource Sharing Agreements, Partnership Agreements), we will seek existing informal or new partners to endorse a short 2-3 page Project Partnership Agreement as part of the tender

Partners are important to our NLP2 Bid. How do we define Partners?

A project delivery partner can be defined as the following:

Partnerships comprise of a lead partner and key partners, and often include secondary partners.

For the purposes of identifying Partners the following apply to Lead and Key Partners.

Partners:

* Are actively involved over time- they are actively involved over the life of the project, and beyond the project period
* Have shared common goals, and investment in achieving those goals
* Have clear and identified roles to achieve the goals
* Will allocate time and resources to the partnership
* May/may not provide or receive financial support
* Will generally agree to a governance or communication structure that allows for collaboration with Lead and Key Partners through-out the project i.e working group, TOR, committee etc
* Work together to achieve shared common goals

Partnerships are time and resource based, and may not be long term (restricted to meeting goals and resourcing in a set time frame/funding cycle etc)

* Definitions of partners:
	+ **Lead partner**- takes carriage of partnership, identifies suitable partners, develops project scope, leads coordination and planning, responsible for working with partners, key contact for partnerships, potentially allocating resources.
	+ **Key partner**- directly invested in activity, aligns with the big picture goals, and shares a range of roles with other primary partners
	+ **Secondary partner**- has a more discrete service related activity and shorter term involvement in the overall partnership (i.e contractor, workshop presenter, consultant)

For more information on getting involved, please submit an email to

Admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au with the email title- NLP2