

Community Landcarer input into possible directions for Landcare NSW over the next 12 Months: NSW Landcare Muster, September 2009, Port Macquarie

In the session “Community Landcarer input into possible directions for Landcare NSW over the next 12 Months”, items were gathered from the Muster participants using cards. Green cards were used to collect answers to the question “What 2 issues would you like to see LNi address in the next 12 months” (2 cards per participant). Blue Cards were used for the “One thing you want LNi to have achieved in the next 12 months”. The cards were roughly collated during the session and typed up later, using the exact words on the card and grouped under several headings and subheadings. Where one card contained 2 separate items, these have been separated into individual dot points and placed under the appropriate heading. The list below contains the items as written on the cards and those from the blue cards are in blue printing.

There was no clear distinction between the answers to the two questions, so the results have been merged under the different headings, as issues to be addressed in order to achieve an outcome, and achievements wanted.

The headings and subheadings are:

- Recognition (2 sub headings, total of 18 items), identity and profile (9 items) and as leaders (9 items)
- Representation: (9 items)
- Data base and mapping (11 items)
- Communication and knowledge sharing (16 items)
- Landcare Policy Framework (12 items)
- Partnering and Relationships with others (3 subheadings, with a total of 29 items), relationships with other entities (8 items), relationships with CMAs (15 items), and relationship with LAL (6 items)
- Support for Landcare Networks and local groups (4 subheadings, with a total of 46 items), support (8 items), funding (13 items), CSO positions and their funding (14 items) and Regional Landcare Facilitators (11 items)
- Role in Sustainability and adaptation to climate change (5 items)
- Engagement of young people (5 items)
- Other issues: (9 items) including achieve Harmony (1), specific issues to address (6) and specific action or achievements by LNi: (5)

The details of all cards are as follows:

Recognition (2 sub headings, total of 18 items):

- (a) identity and profile (9 items)

- Create a Landcare identity
- Identify Landcare; Who, what why where, how; and promote this variety
- Address public perception of Landcare;
- increased profile in the community
- promote Landcare NSW
- Strengthened profile
- Broader recognition of Landcare scope in communities and opportunities for sustainable influences
- Improvement in understanding by government of importance of Landcare in changing community attitudes to local environmental issues
- Improving community wellbeing

- (b) as leaders (9 items)

- Recognition as peak body
- Recognised leaders in Landcare
- LNi regarded as major player at State and Federal level
- The trust of all NSW groups CMAs and agencies as an honest broker

- Be the uniter of the movement for NSW
- united voice
- Long term direction
- continuity of the movement (sustainability)
- more professional 'rebadge'

Representation: (9 items)

- Representation of Landcare over ALL NSW
- Wider representation
- Proactive representation of grassroots issues vs 'top down' statements
- Continue giving a voice to and represent grass roots,
- collecting information about groups and their needs
- Bring back the team environment in Landcare
- team building across the state
- Greater recognition across Landcare groups of its existence and purpose in NSW
- inclusive of urban and rural groups

Data base and mapping (11 items)

- sort out the Landcare database
- Landcare data ; who is in the groups, how many groups out there, regular feedback
- Update our Landcare footprint (maps, databases, linkages etc)
- online database - maps etc
- contact databases
- Have the data base sorted
- Identify who is a Landcare member/ no. of functioning group; fundamental to power and influence
- A maintained list of Landcare groups/networks
- Complete "map" of all NSW groups
- Database with direct linkage to all groups across the state
- database: take what LAL has collected over the last 5 years: do not re-invent

Communication and knowledge sharing (16 items)

- get the web presence, connectedness going
- Greater communication with Landcare groups
- enhance linkages with local groups , e.g. workshops, forums
- Independent Landcare advice to groups
- build a solid, accurate information flow for grass-roots, on-ground Landcarers – through regional, state bodies to Australian Government
- communication of successes and needs of Landcare to government agencies and wider communities
- Push for Placestories recognition (its great)
- Comprehensive roll out of the Placestories project
- Effective functional organisation relaying information up to government and down to grass-roots
- knowledge sharing
- More funding for community education to value biodiversity
- Convince government that changing community attitude and understanding of sustainability, biodiversity etc is more important than relatively small on ground developments: i.e. spending ½ million \$ on some erosion control is less effective than convincing land managers to control it.
- support from governments
- give groups clarity and direction on Government issues
- Education for rural landowners
- direct Landcare issues towards absentee and corporate landholders

Landcare Policy Framework (12 items)

- Proactive in development of National Framework, delivering community needs
- Support the Landcare framework process on behalf of Landcare communities across NSW
- Input into Landcare framework
- promotion of holistic responsibilities, incorporating N R. Management and Climate Action requirements
- consistency in levels of support for networks
- ensuring grass roots inputs
- Policy finalised with focus on grass roots
- more certainty for funding Landcare support;

- bi-partisan support for a funding ongoing framework
- bedding down the policy framework
- NSW Landcare strategy in line with AG framework
- Long term plan

Partnering and Relationships with others (3 subheadings, with a total of 29 items):

-(a) relationships with other entities (8 items)

- Partnerships across community
- Partnerships
- Build bridges between different NRM bodies
- Ensure greater communication and information sharing between NRM bodies, rather than competition.
- Collaboration/MoU with KAB, Tidy Towns, Sustainable Communities programmes.
- encourage links between community groups
- build networks
- Firm/clarity of LNi and NSWLC relationship

-(b) relationships with CMAs (15 items)

- develop linkages and working relationships with CMAs and other relevant service providers
- Relationships with Regional Bodies
- Landcare relationship with CMAs
- CMA and Regional Landcare organisations together in healthy partnerships
- Working with CMAs
- Work on relations with CMAs
- make peace with CMAs
- Cooperation and recognition from some CMAs in the importance of Landcare
- CMA Landcare relationship
- Collaboration/Memoranda of understanding with CMAs.
- Partnership/collaboration with CMAs – establish when working toward same goals to give consistent images to the public; clarify vision and goals
- Clarify role of CMAs
- partnering across all regions of NSW
- Re-establish/facilitate Landcare/CMA relations in M'bidgee and Namoi
- how do we encourage support for Landcare over all 13 CMA regions

-(c) Relationship with LAL (6 items)

- Develop LAL and LNi “partnership”
- ‘real’ Landcare needs to force/shame LAL into working with grass roots Landcare
- work to sort out how Landcare can benefit more from LAL
- bring LAL on board
- better relationship with LAL
- Partnership/collaboration with LAL while working toward same goals, to give consistent images to the public; clarify vision and goals

Support for Landcare Networks and local groups (4 subheadings, with a total of 46 items):

-(a) support (8 items)

- Landcare workers skill development;
- revitalise groups
- continuity of support and resources
- ongoing support arrangements
- providing support at local level that helps not hinders
- better use of resources
- reward and support direct on-round works by groups and individuals NOT give money to Govt organisations and expect them to distribute it - i.e. CMAs
- Landcare support staff commitment long term

-(b) funding (13 items)

- funding to be given in a more direct manner
- more projects that get down to the grass roots level, maybe through schools, local councils
- More funds down at grass roots level
- Access more funding for NSW Landcare groups (local)
- funds to be given directly to Landcare
- lobby for funding
- longer term funding
- Bi-partisan Government support at all levels for permanent community Landcare funding

- certainty of funding from government –
- support and \$s for regional 'Landcare' bodies
- building strong relationship with funding agencies
- CfOC only funds WONS; this is very limited: Hope Landcare NSW can persuade AG to extend weeds which can be funded
- Greater support financially, resourcewise
- (c) **CSO positions and their funding (14 items)**
 - ongoing support for CSOs funding
 - re-establish government funded Landcare coordinators to cover all areas
 - more support for Landcare groups/districts in the form of Landcare support officers sitting underneath the regional facilitators
 - Have Landcare coordinators (secure, well funded positions) for every region, run by Landcare
 - guaranteed CSO funding
 - Security of funding for facilitators/CSOs
 - Guaranteed CSO funding
 - funding of CSO facilitator positions and support
 - 3 year community support funding for Landcare networks
 - longer contracts for CSO positions
 - longer term contracts for Landcare staff
 - Re-instate the state Landcare Co-ordinators workshop
 - how about a state Landcare award category for "paid Landcare staff member"
 - Better communication with Landcare community support officers, - or on website; (e.g. this muster is very informative but 2 weeks ago I was going to boycott it due to lack of information and only a waffly outline given. Detailed programme came very late)
- (d) **Regional Landcare Facilitators (11 items)**
 1. application for all NSW RLFs
 2. application to be submitted to employ RLFs
 3. Landcare coordinators to be employed by groups/networks
 4. Landcare coordinators (adequate provision thereof)
 5. take control of RLF positions
 6. If you get the 13 Landcare facilitators, use these people to assist all NGO landscape type groups to develop corporate governance and strategies and improve the production and the efficiency of the groups
 7. continuity of Landcare facilitator positions
 8. successful tender of the 13 Landcare co-ordinators who are working with Landcare groups, not directed by bureaucracies, actively building the networks across the state.
 9. Successful deployment of RLFs to all region
 10. RLF positions and deployment to community networks
 11. Successful roll-out Regional Landcare Facilitators who are invigorating Landcare

role in Sustainability and adaptation to climate change (5 items)

- Recognition of role of Landcare in climate change
- advisory role in sustainable local government town planning
- Education of rural and urban community for sustainable future
- Low impact farming and grazing
- Low impact farming and grazing

Engagement of young people (5 items)

- youth involvement
- increased youth awareness
- advisory role for future generation
- engaging those outside the movement especially amongst youth
- marketing and recruitment of new members and young members to Landcare in NSW

Other issues: (9 Items)

- (a) achieve Harmony (1)

- **Harmony:** *(this may apply to many, if not all of the issues listed -ed)*

- (b) specific issues to address: (6)

- mining on Prime Agriculture land, could damage our aquifers on Liverpool Plains (x 2)
- **Improve our rivers,** rivercare: (x 3)
- institute a voluntary Landcare rating for farms easily administered 10 point checklist; Rated 1- 10 can be used when buying and selling properties (using the Landcare Logo

- (c) specific action or achievements by LNi: (5)

- Recognition of links
- Achieve national group
- Facilitate CfoC Project with Landcare groups involved in project area
- take over the 2011 forum
- Run the State Landcare Awards

Not understood or identifiable as LNi issues (2 cards)

- Report option Local Government Area rather than CMA (*Ed: If this was meant to read "support option ..." it maybe referring to the Regional Landcare Facilitator)*
- **Improved management of rainfall events; better use of resources** *(the second part has been included as a dot point under 'support'. Ed.)*

Comment from the facilitator of the session on 'terminology': *There are a number of terms used for the people who might support Landcare and its networks and groups. Terms used included 'Community support officer', 'Landcare Coordinator', 'Landcare Support Officer', 'Landcare Facilitator', 'NRM Facilitator' etc. At one level the terms 'support officer', 'coordinator' and 'facilitator' appear to be used by different people to mean the same thing. At the same time, some are being spoken about as regional or network area level support persons, while others are at the local level without distinguishing between the nature of the persons area of coverage. 'Regional' sometimes refers to CMA Region and at other times Landcare Network 'region'. The use of the term "landcare" in describing such positions may also mean different things to different people. For example, the term 'Regional Landcare Facilitator' is a specific term for a new AG funded position, and represents the AG priority for sustainable agriculture and as such may not accommodate the need for support in other areas of Landcare's concerns, such as landscape scale biodiversity and conservation and community level group support. Perhaps Landcare NSW has a role in clarifying the terminology being used both within the Landcare community and by our partners for support people.*