



20 Million Trees Section  
Biodiversity Conservation Division  
Department of the Environment  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA  
ACT 2601

**Email:** [20milliontrees@environment.gov.au](mailto:20milliontrees@environment.gov.au)

31 July 2014

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### Response to the Request for Information the 20 Million Tree Programme

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for providing Landcare NSW Inc with the opportunity to respond to the Request for Information the 20 Million Tree Programme.

Landcare NSW is the peak Landcare body in NSW. There are over 3000 Landcare type groups in NSW, covering a wide spectrum of activities and interests. Landcare NSW believes that it is important they have the opportunity to directly input their views to your Request for Information. Accordingly we have circulated your information so as to allow any of these groups to respond in the way that reflects the opinions of their individual members.

Landcare NSW only seeks to input on the aspects of your review which concern how the community is engaged and supported to be valued and active participants in the Programme.

Please find attached our specific comments on this aspect, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Dulhunty'.

Rob Dulhunty

Chair, Landcare NSW

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# Request for Information - 20 Million Trees Programme.

Prepared by Sonia Williams  
General Manager Landcare NSW  
31 July 2014



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The 20 Million Trees Programme, provides important resourcing toward achieving the Australian Governments objectives, in establishing 20 million trees and understorey by 2020.

To enable the programme to meet the other objectives of the program ie:

- support local environmental outcomes by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species (including threatened species and threatened ecological communities)
- work cooperatively with the community, and
- contribute to Australia reducing its greenhouse gas emissions;

in a way that utilises local knowledge and expertise, encourages local ownership and co-investment Landcare NSW offers the following input, against selected areas, as requested in the ROI,

In addition, as an overall observation, Landcare NSW recommends that the delivery of the 20 Million Trees Programme, the National Landcare Program, Regional Delivery, the Green Army, and other initiatives be subject to an overarching delivery design process, which draws upon the input of community landcare with its 25 years' experience in delivering in a manner that allows the above strategic objectives to be achieved and maintained. The 20 Million Trees Programme's success will ultimately depend on how well it is integrated into the overall delivery of programmes in this sphere, and the coordination and resourcing that is built into its delivery.

## Seed Supply, Applicable Standards, Optimising environmental and carbon abatement outcomes.

The above areas from the ROI are broadly grouped as "technical" requirements – and the providers engaged should be those who have operated within and have the regional understanding and experience in revegetation to be credible in the local area so as to support the programme.

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LNSW strongly discourages the appointment of nation-wide providers who have not worked within the areas where the programme will be rolled out. Multiple providers based upon their regional/local knowledge and experience is the preferred model.

Availability of suitable land, Capacity to deliver, Managing significant issues, and Optimising cost effective delivery.

The above areas from the EOI are broadly grouped as being influenced by the amount of buy-in and ownership that those participating in the programme. It will be imperative for the programme to provide sufficient resourcing to enable the community based networks to be involved in the promotion, design and delivery of the programme. The resourcing for this should be drawn from the programme, and the return to the programme will be manyfold – including leveraged investment, ownership and thus maintenance of the outcomes in the longer term, increased capacity of the community to adaptively manage change, and respond to both known and foreseeable issues (such as correct timing of plantings) as well as unforeseen issues (such as fire and drought).

**Landcare NSW believes that the delivery of the program may best be served by delineating components of the program and then co-designing it between providers - both technical and community capacity based, to maximise the skills and abilities that each party provides.**

**We look forward to further discussion on how this could be achieved, and invite the Department to contact us.**

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