

National Landcare arrangements – key messages and FAQs

1. For historical reasons there are two national Landcare organisations in Australia. This dilutes Landcare's effectiveness and creates confusion among Landcarers and our partners.
2. The Landcare community has tried to resolve this situation over many years. Recently, three years of work to achieve a merger between Landcare Australia Limited and the National Landcare Network came to a halt, meaning we are back to where we started with no pathway forward.
3. Landcare NSW believes the Landcare community needs to be properly informed about the current situation. Grassroots Landcarers know best what support is needed to allow them to get on with the job at the local level and should have a say in these issues.
4. Until now this situation has been managed by the various organisations involved. Landcare NSW has taken the step of informing the NSW Landcare community so they can understand the situation and offer their opinion on its resolution. Landcare NSW wishes to be confident that any statements it makes reflect the views of the NSW Landcare community.
5. Landcare NSW is holding regional forums and has prepared supporting information which is being circulated widely. Comments, questions and input are welcome to Landcare NSW at administration@landcarensw.org.au

Why is this important to me in my local patch? This issue is important for all Landcarers because national leadership and coherent institutional arrangements are crucial to our ability to attract investment and build Landcare's capacity across Australia. A unified national body is needed to strengthen the Landcare movement nationally and guide us through the next 30 years of Landcare.

What can I do to help? The first step is for Landcarers to be informed about the current situation. We trust our community to have a considered discussion as to the merits of pursuing the goal of national cohesion and unity, and to bring forward your views so we can be confident that our participation in this debate on your behalf accurately reflects your views. We invite you to make time in your busy schedules to consider the facts, ask questions and think about what you want from your national leaders and organisations.

What about my group's existing relationship/partnership/funding agreements with Landcare Australia? You should continue to work with Landcare Australia if it is of benefit to your local/network/regional Landcare group – this is a decision for Landcare groups. However, at the State level, Landcare NSW has decided that while this issue remains outstanding, it will examine LA's requests for assistance or involvement and decide whether to participate on a case by case basis.

What is Landcare NSW doing to resolve this issue? Since 2017, Landcare NSW has invested a large amount of time and effort into resolving the issue and attempting to merge the two national bodies. Now that the merger has failed, we feel that as your state peak body we have a responsibility to inform you of this issue that adversely impacts all Landcare entities within NSW. As the voice of community Landcare in NSW, we want to ensure we are working in the best interests and for the benefit of all Landcarers.

Landcare NSW will be holding a series of regional forums to discuss these issues with you over the coming weeks. We look forward to your engagement and your considered ideas and invite your questions, comments and feedback to administration@landcarensw.org.au