



Role of the Regional Landcare Facilitator (2013–18)

Caring for our Country outcomes

Regional Landcare Facilitators (RLFs) will contribute to developing a skilled and capable Landcare community¹ within their region, and will contribute to the following Caring for our Country (Sustainable Agriculture stream) outcomes:

- increase the percentage of farming and fishing entities and land managers with the knowledge and skills to manage our natural resources and deliver ecosystem services
- increase the capacity and confidence of regional community leaders, including women, young people, Indigenous Australians and people from culturally diverse communities involved in agriculture or fisheries production and the protection of natural resources
- increase engagement and participation by regional communities and groups, including Landcare, professional farming system groups, industry, other community groups or individuals in natural resource management activities
- increase community awareness and understanding of the status of Australia's natural resources (land, forests and fisheries)
- increase the percentage and area of farming entities using sustainable land management practices to increase productivity and improve the quality of ecosystem services delivered to the broader community from their land, while building their resilience to climate change

- increase the percentage of fishing and aquaculture entities that have adopted sustainable and low environmental impact management practices to increase productivity
- increase the number and area of farming and fishing sector entities that have trialled innovative practices for improved natural resources management

Regional NRM organisations are expected to engage with the community to achieve against the above outcomes under the Regional Delivery component of Caring for our Country. RLFs are a mechanism by which they can achieve this – the role of the RLF is as an “enabler” who supports the community within their region to achieve the outcomes.

Role statement

The Regional Landcare Facilitator is expected to engage with land managers, local and regional Landcare groups, farming systems or grower groups and related community organisations to support the community within their region to achieve the above Caring for our Country (Sustainable Agriculture stream) outcomes. The RLF role will focus predominantly on working with community members and groups which have a sustainable agriculture focus.

¹The term “Landcare community” refers to individuals and groups who actively care for the land and natural resources. This includes land holders as well as volunteers working on public and private land and a range of community and production groups, not all of which describe themselves as Landcare groups.



The Regional Landcare Facilitator will:

- ³⁵₁₇ Promote the Landcare ethic and sustainable agriculture to farmers and land managers
For example, by:
- *delivering information about best practice and new innovations and encouraging the sharing of information and experiences across the region*
 - *advising land managers and community groups of emerging issues and threats (e.g. weeds)*
 - *linking community with specialist sources of information*
 - *raising awareness in the wider community of Landcare issues and opportunities to contribute*
- ³⁵₁₇ Assist Landcare and community groups to seek funding, membership and resources for NRM activities and to build their capacity and skills
For example, by:
- *informing the community about funding opportunities*
 - *building the capacity of groups to attract and sustain funding and membership*
 - *identifying synergies across the region and linking up similar projects to create efficiencies*
 - *linking groups with industry, research organisations and with government*
 - *supporting and mentoring existing and potential regional community leaders*
- ³⁵₁₇ Support the development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the region's community engagement plan or strategy²
For example, by:
- *contributing to strategic planning*
 - *promoting and facilitating engagement of the Landcare community with the regional body*
 - *supporting the development of a training calendar*
 - *promoting training and workshops*
 - *assisting baseline data collation and elements of monitoring progress against baselines*
- ³⁵₁₇ Increase awareness of Australian Government policies and funding programs relevant to Sustainable Agriculture including Caring for our Country and the Clean Energy Future Land Sector Package
- ³⁵₁₇ Report on the state of Landcare in the region³
- ³⁵₁₇ Contribute to the maintenance of up to date contact details of Landcare groups⁴ in the region in an identified national Landcare directory⁵
- ³⁵₁₇ Provide feedback to the Commonwealth on emerging issues in the region, relevant to sustainable agriculture practices and Landcare community needs
- ³⁵₁₇ Participate in the Regional Landcare Facilitator network, including attending biannual national and state events
- ³⁵₁₇ Deliver other activities as may be requested by the Minister or DAFF
- ³⁵₁₇ **Project component:** Deliver community capacity building activities to achieve against the identified Caring for our Country (Sustainable Agriculture stream) outcomes, in response to community need (further information is provided overleaf)

The Regional Landcare Facilitator is not to:

- ³⁵₁₇ Deliver or manage Caring for our Country or other projects on behalf of the regional body or host organisation
- ³⁵₁₇ Undertake line management of regional body or host organisation staff

²Note that the RLF is expected to support and contribute to these activities in line with their facilitation role however the RLF will not be expected to lead on these activities or to be responsible for writing the plan.

³Further details about the mechanism for this will be advised at a later time.

⁴Including groups who identify as "Landcare groups" as well as other community-based groups which focus on natural resource management.

⁵Further details about the platform for this will be advised at a later time.

³⁵₁₇ Fulfil any other organisational management responsibilities within the regional body or host organisation

³⁵₁₇ Undertake any work of a commercial nature for the regional body or host organisation

Undertake any additional responsibilities which do not reasonably fall within the above role statement, unless prior written approval has been granted by DAFF.

Key relationships

At **regional** level:

³⁵₁₇ local and regional Landcare and production groups, networks and related organisations

³⁵₁₇ the regional NRM organisation

³⁵₁₇ the RLF steering committee

³⁵₁₇ others, as required, e.g. local government, wider natural resource management community

At **statewide** level:

³⁵₁₇ the DAFF Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator

³⁵₁₇ the state RLF network

³⁵₁₇ others as required, e.g. relevant state agencies, Landcare peak body, industry peak bodies

At **national** level:

³⁵₁₇ the National Landcare Facilitator

³⁵₁₇ the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

³⁵₁₇ the national RLF network

³⁵₁₇ others as required, e.g. national and cross jurisdictional networks

Minimum selection criteria

Regional Landcare Facilitators will possess the following minimum skills and capabilities:

³⁵₁₇ Strong knowledge and experience of Landcare, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management issues relevant to the region

³⁵₁₇ High level facilitation, communication and interpersonal skills

³⁵₁₇ Demonstrated ability to build productive relationships and work collaboratively with diverse stakeholder groups including farmers, land managers, Landcare and other community based organisations, and government representatives

³⁵₁₇ Demonstrated ability to facilitate the delivery of effective community capacity building activities for farmers, land managers and community groups

Community Capacity Building activities (project component)

Budget of at least \$30 000 per year is to be provided for the RLF position for the purpose of delivering enabling activities in response to community needs. Such activities should have a community capacity building focus and will assist the community to achieve the identified Caring for our Country (Sustainable Agriculture stream) outcomes. Specific activities must be endorsed by the RLF Steering Committee and agreed by DAFF.

Appropriate activities include, but are not limited to:

³⁵₁₇ capacity building workshops

³⁵₁₇ peer learning activities

³⁵₁₇ farm based demonstration activities

³⁵₁₇ awareness raising events

³⁵₁₇ extension and communications materials

The **target groups** will be:

³⁵₁₇ Landcare groups

³⁵₁₇ farming systems or grower groups

³⁵₁₇ land managers

³⁵₁₇ regional community leaders involved in agriculture production and the protection of natural resources

Up to \$5,000 per year may be used to support community members to attend conferences, events or training activities where:

³⁵₁₇ the recipients are community members and have been identified through a transparent process

³⁵₁₇ the activity directly contributes to (a) increasing the capacity and confidence of regional community leaders or (b) improving the knowledge and skills of land managers

The following activities will **not** be considered an appropriate use of these funds:

³⁵₁₇activities targeting schools / school children⁶

³⁵₁₇any form of on-ground activities (with the exception of approved demonstration activities)

³⁵₁₇activities that are primarily for political lobbying (e.g. protesting a development)

³⁵₁₇activities designed to raise revenue

³⁵₁₇sponsoring individuals to attend events or gain qualifications (with the exception of those covered by the \$5,000 allowance above)

³⁵₁₇providing a donation to an organisation

³⁵₁₇providing sponsorship to an event⁷

³⁵₁₇providing incentive payments for practice change

³⁵₁₇any other form of sponsorship, devolved grant, gift or incentive to individuals or organisations

⁶RLFs may have some involvement with schools in their role (e.g. promoting funding opportunities to a school-based Junior Landcare group) however school students are not a focus for the program and activities targeting them should not form part of the project component. School based activities *may* be appropriate if they demonstrably target the identified target groups.

⁷Elements of an event which the RLF is involved in organising may be funded if it is directly relevant to achieving the Caring for our Country targets. Donations or general sponsorship to events are not appropriate.