

MEDIA RELEASE

Partnership focuses on helping communities help their environments

Monday 7th May 2012: A recently signed statement of common purpose agreement will see the National Landcare Network (NLN) and the National NRM Regions' Working Group working together to establish an enduring productive relationship between community Landcare and Regional Natural Resource Management organisations.

The strategic partnership will see both parties developing a collaborative relationship at a national level that will foster effective working partnerships nationally, regionally and locally, where common interests lie. These joint efforts will ultimately optimise positive outcomes for the protection of natural resources across Australia.

The NLN is the national advocacy and representative body for Landcare, a grass-roots movement which enables local communities to take action and responsibility for their local environment. The National NRM Regions' Working Groups is the representative body of Australia's 56 regional NRM organisations and focuses on the development of regional landscape plans and investments which align regional community visions and actions with government directions..

David Walker, Chair of the National Landcare Network, recognises the benefits of both organisations working collaboratively.

“Landcare has a fantastic record of getting landholder, and wider community, ‘buy in’ to recognising, learning about, and addressing the land degradation and conservation issues that confront them on their farms and in their local areas. Regional bodies have the responsibility to coordinate NRM policy and actions at a regional scale, and feed their regional plans into national targets. Both roles are equally important, but clearly different, and we need to make sure we work together effectively,” he said.

Dr. Sarah Ryan of the National NRM Regions' Working Group believes that together the organisations can more effectively address environmental challenges.

“Members of Landcare and the Boards and staff of regional NRM groups are all highly committed to achieving the best possible restoration and protection of our environment, but we've come from different backgrounds and have different perspectives and ways of working. This initiative aims to capitalise on the fact that we share the same mission but have complementary skills we can bring to landscape care. Even the process of working up our statement of common purpose has increased my understanding of the needs and strengths of people in Landcare, and I hope exposed more of our thinking to Landcare. Regional NRM bodies will be promoting more such discussions around the country as we implement the agreement” she said.

The agreement will see both organisations working together to improve the way Landcare and regional NRM bodies work together at all scales across Australia. The signatories will also work on shared input into policy formulation at national and state levels and stronger community input at regional and local levels.

Both organisations share the common objective of fostering communities that are aware, engaged and active in ensuring Australian landscapes are healthier, better protected, better managed, more resilient and provide essential ecosystem services in a changing world, and through this agreement they will be in a position to work together to realise this objective.

For further information, please contact:

Melissa Whitelaw

Communications & Marketing Director, Landcare Australia

Phone 029 9884 7680

Email: melissa.whitelaw@landcareaustralia.com.au