

VLC

BRIEFING NOTE 2

December 2009



Over the past few months there has been significant activity about the future for Landcare at several levels. The federal government through the National Landcare Facilitator has launched an ambitious National Framework for Landcare project, the state is reviewing Landcare policy and has just released the long awaited White Paper on Land and Biodiversity at a time of Climate Change and we have all been anxiously awaiting the review of the Caring for our Country for the 2010 year. The VLC has been active in all of these.

Committee of Management Meeting

In October the Committee of Management met in Melbourne. Several administrative and procedure matters were resolved and it was agreed we should aim for a general council meeting early in the New Year. This meeting will be based around strategic planning for the Council and some time to build the delegates into a better functioning team.

The Committee also agreed to a proposal to seek support from Landcare Networks to become Foundation Contributors to the Council as a means of kick starting our membership drive with the Landcare community. The funds raised will also enable the VLC to make a start on developing the information we need to demonstrate to governments the value of the Landcare volunteer contribution to natural resource management and the leverage which Landcare brings to the investment of public funds.

National Framework for Landcare

In October the National Landcare Facilitator program sponsored a workshop on the national framework for Landcare conducted in Melbourne by the FTLA. The VLC was able to bring to this workshop most of the members of the Committee of Management and several Council delegates to ensure we joined with FTLA to emphasise the importance of the Victorian model of regional delivery of Landcare through Facilitators and Coordinators.

VLC is very strongly committed to the maintenance of the regional delivery model because we believe it is the primary reason for the success Victorian Landcare has had in both project outcomes and the capacity building in our communities. The long running and comprehensive research work of Prof Allan Curtis and his colleagues at Charles Sturt University very clearly shows the value of Landcare in the community during a time of real climatic and seasonal stress over so much of the state.

VLC very strongly believes that the National Framework must recognise the values embedded in the Victorian Landcare delivery model, that regardless of how other states may deliver on the Landcare ethic, in Victoria we do it through an engaged and empowered community, a resilient community which is supported and strengthened by professional Landcare and other community support personnel.

The next step in this process is planned to be at the National Landcare Forum in Adelaide in late March 2010. In the meantime we all have an opportunity to submit comments and suggestions to the process at the National Facilitator's website <http://www.landcarefacilitator.com.au>.

Reviewing Victorian Landcare/White Paper

On Monday 7 December the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, The Hon Gavin Jennings, launched the long awaited White Paper on Land and Biodiversity at a time of Climate Change. This policy document recommends some big changes in the administration of natural resource management in Victoria. VLC will be working through the paper at our February meeting and hope from that to prepare a position paper detailing where we see Landcare's potential to contribute to the best outcomes for the community. The White Paper is available on the DSE website and is recommended reading for everyone involved in Landcare.

Caring for our Country Review

VLC has through various contacts been able to continue to provide comment and input to the review process of the Caring for our Country program. We have continued to emphasise the need to restore support for the community Facilitators and Coordinators. VLC believes these professional support staff should be seen as a program target, they have delivered to our communities such valuable support. We remain deeply committed to the role of Facilitators and Coordinators and will continue to seek greater recognition of the pivotal role they play in the delivery of the government's NRM objectives.

Landcare Champions

The Committee of Management endorsed a proposal that the VLC should seek to establish a small group of members of Parliament who we could refer to as Landcare Champions. We plan to fully brief this group on Landcare activities, Landcare priorities and achievements with the longer term objective of achieving a small group of well informed and, hopefully committed, Members who we can ask to support our cause. Our first Landcare Champion is Mr Johan Scheffer, one of the MLC's representing East Victoria Region. Johan has been to several Landcare functions and has been taking a keen interest in Landcare. We very much welcome him into the Landcare family.

If you have a MP in your region who you think would make an ideal Landcare Champion in the Parliament please get in touch with your regional VLC delegate.

We look forward to all your comments and feed back.

If you wish to be placed on the VLC email address list to receive Council Minutes please notify the Secretary.

For feed-back and comment check out our Landcare Gateway site or email to pipeter@aapt.net.au

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For and on behalf of the Victorian Landcare Council

VLC DELEGATES FOR CMA REGIONS

TAKE YOUR LANDCARE ISSUES & CONCERNS TO YOUR REGIONAL DELEGATES

