



Frequently Asked Questions – updated 29 September 2017

Q1. What is phase two of the National Landcare Program?

A1. The current National Landcare Program started in 2014-15 and concludes at the end of the 2017-18 financial year. This second phase investment continues the Australian Government's commitment to natural resource management, sustainable land management and environmental protection. The investment will help Landcare, Indigenous and community groups continue their valuable work of delivering on-ground biodiversity and sustainable agriculture outcomes that benefit our communities and the environment.

Q2. What funding has been announced?

A2. The 2017-18 Federal Budget announced more than \$1 billion to fund a new National Landcare Program, including \$100 million previously agreed in the 2016-17 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. The \$1.1 billion will be delivered over seven years beginning in 2016-17.

This funding will support new and continuing programs including:

Regional Land Partnerships - \$450 million (jointly delivered by the Department of Environment and Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) which will deliver national priorities at a regional level. [More about Regional Land Partnerships.](#)

Smart Farms Program - \$134 million will support the development and uptake of new management practices, tools and technologies that help farmers, fishers, foresters and regional communities adopt best practice land management strategies. These will improve the protection, resilience and productive capacity of our soils, water and vegetation, in turn supporting successful primary industries and regional communities. [More about Smart Farms Program.](#)

Reef 2050 Plan - The second phase of the National Landcare Program provides additional funding towards meeting the Government's commitment to the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan. [More about continuing to deliver the Reef 2050 Plan.](#)

World Heritage - This will be provided to help with the management of our treasured sites. [More about World Heritage places.](#)

Environment Small Grants - \$5 million will be allocated through a one-off grant round in the 2017-18 financial year. [More about Environment small grants.](#)

Indigenous Protected Areas - The Government will provide \$15 million for Indigenous Protected Areas, in addition to an investment of \$93 million for the ongoing support of existing Indigenous Protected Areas. [More about Indigenous Protected Areas.](#)

Red Imported Fire Ants Eradication Program for South East Queensland - The Australian Government is committed to the eradication of Red Imported Fire Ants and is providing funding as part of its contribution to the Red Imported Fire Ants eradication program for South-east Queensland. [More about Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program for South East Queensland.](#)

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions - The Government is supporting the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre's transition into the new Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. The new Centre is focusing on invasive species management and this investment supports the Centre and its efforts to carry out research, development and extension activities aimed at managing invasive animals and weeds. [More about Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.](#)

Q3. Where will the \$100 million of additional funding go?

A3. The \$100 million will go to on-ground project delivery through supporting the following programs:

- Indigenous Protected Areas (\$15 million)
- Smart Farms Program (\$80 million)
- Environment Small Grants (\$5 million)

Q4. Why is the Commonwealth Government continuing to invest in natural resource management?

A4. Australia's natural environment is central to our economy and national identity. The Commonwealth Government is committed to its long term preservation and sustainable use. Our natural environment provides a home to, and sustains our unique wildlife; it also generates a significant proportion of our nation's wealth through agriculture and tourism.

The Australian Government is responsible for providing national leadership and coordination in natural resource management and has the responsibility to uphold international treaties that include NRM issues. To achieve this, the Commonwealth will continue to work with a range of other parties including state and local governments, the local community, Landcare groups and farmers. We recognise that the threats to our natural environment do not recognise state or national borders and we need to work together to protect our environment, our communities and our economy.

Continued Australian Government investment and leadership attracts significant investment and action from other parties, including state and territory and local governments, philanthropic organisations, volunteers and local communities.

Together, this investment maintains the quality and resilience of our natural assets for the benefit of present and future generations.

Q5. How can I find out more about the Environment Small Grant round?

A5. Further information on the Environment Small Grants can be found [here](#). Further details will be released as they become available.

Regional Land Partnerships

Q6. How will the Regional Land Partnerships Program work?

A6. Information on the proposed design of this program are contained in the [Consultation Paper](#). As part of the consultation process the Department of the Environment and Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources are holding information and consultation sessions in each state and territory. Webcasts are also available for those that can't attend information sessions. These will provide further information and answer questions about the Regional Land Partnerships program.

Q7. How can I find out about the information and consultation process?

A7. For more information on the consultation process including the information sessions, please see the [Regional Land Partnerships page](#).

Q8. Why is the government considering changing the funding model?

A8. The 2016 Review of the National Landcare Programme identified scope to deliver efficiencies in the program's next phase. This highlighted that some regional bodies could increase their effectiveness and efficiencies by delivering investment through additional established local and regional networks and that efficiencies may be found using a shared services model. This could include regional bodies working together in partnerships and reconsidering the number of regions required to deliver NRM services across the country.

We have taken these findings on board when designing the proposed new delivery arrangements. The proposed changes to the funding model are aimed at encouraging a more integrated approach to delivering sustainable agriculture and encourage good environmental management outcomes. The model will improve efficiencies by avoiding the duplication of services and reducing administrative and governance costs.

Q9. Will the Regional Landcare Facilitator network continue?

A9. Yes. As part of Regional Land Partnerships, the Regional Landcare Facilitator network will be continued, with a stronger focus on agricultural activities and outcomes. This is why we are changing the name to Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator.

Q10. What is the role of the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator under the new program?

A10. Under the new program, the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) position will have a stronger focus on the delivery of sustainable agriculture outcomes. RALFs will support farmers to adopt new and innovative sustainable agriculture practices on private land. The increased emphasis on agriculture is why the “agriculture” word has been included to the new name.

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators may provide services which contribute towards sustainable agriculture outcomes, including fostering partnerships, engaging communities, seeking new funding and delivering projects.

The RALFs will also help farmers, industries, and communities to participate in the Smart Farms program, particularly the Small Grants and Partnership elements.

Q11. What are the resources required for the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator?

A11. Resources will be allocated for a designated Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator service for each land management unit. The funding amount may vary across management units depending on the number of sustainable agriculture priorities and projects.

Q12. How will my feedback be taken into account after the consultation?

A12. Feedback concerning the role of the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator position can be made as part of the consultation process over the next months. This includes completing an [online consultation survey](#) and providing feedback during the information sessions.

Q13. Can employment contracts for existing Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator be renewed or is it necessary to undertake a recruitment process for the new program?

A13. Successful service providers can be expected to continue employing existing Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators who have the appropriate skills and experience to fulfil the role. Many of the current Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators have built the relationships, knowledge and momentum to deliver the role effectively.

Q14. Community engagement has been a focus for the Regional Delivery; is this expected to continue under the next phase of the National Landcare Program?

A14. In the Regional Land Partnership Consultation Paper, it is proposed that tenderers will be expected to have the involvement and support of their communities, and work with Indigenous, community and Landcare groups to achieve the outcomes under Regional Land

Partnerships. The departments also propose to require that at least 20 per cent of the annual project budget be used for supporting small, on-ground projects and related activities that are delivered by, or directly engage with, the local Landcare community. More information is available in the [Consultation Paper](#).

Q15. Indigenous engagement has been a focus for National Landcare Program, will this continue under phase two of the National Landcare Program?

A15. Indigenous engagement will continue to be a priority under the National Landcare Program. We expect that potential Regional Land Partnerships service providers will be required to demonstrate capability and capacity to engage and work with Indigenous people to plan and deliver regionally-appropriate natural resource management activities. In accordance with the Australian Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy, minimum standards in relation to contracting and employment of Indigenous peoples and organisations may also need to be met by service providers under Regional Land Partnerships.

Q16. What are the monitoring and reporting requirements?

A16. We have released the [Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement \(MERI\) Framework](#) for Regional Land Partnerships. In summary, service providers would be required to report to the Departments to demonstrate that a milestone had been completed before a payment could be made. In addition, the Departments propose to contract service providers to monitor and report on the impact of the NRM Projects, as a service itself. The Departments will also separately undertake long term monitoring of the program's impact. If an open tender process is undertaken, it is expected that further details on the monitoring and reporting requirements will be provided in the final tender documentation and draft service provider contract

Q17. Do I need to be involved in the current Regional Delivery to be eligible to participate in Regional Land Partnerships?

A17. An open tender process is being considered for the delivery of Regional Land Partnerships. The departments do not propose to require previous participation in regional delivery in order for organisations to tender – any organisation that meets the minimum requirements will be able to submit a tender. Conditions for participation will be outlined in the tender documentation which will be publicly available through the AusTender Website.

Q18. How do you see partnerships and co-investment working and what priority will this receive?

A18. The Regional Land Partnership [Consultation Paper](#) has more details about proposals for partnerships and co-investment. Please go to the website www.nrm.gov.au.

Further Information

Information on the proposed design of Regional Land Partnerships is contained in the [Consultation Paper](#). As part of the consultation process the Department of the Environment and Energy and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources are holding information and consultation sessions in each state and territory. Webcasts are also available for those who cannot attend information sessions. These will provide further information and answer questions about Regional Land Partnerships. If you have any further specific questions that are not covered in the material on the www.nrm.gov.au website, please provide them in writing to nationallandcare@environment.gov.au. The Departments will consider these questions and may update the Frequently Asked Questions section on the website in response so you may want to regularly check this page.