



Landcare ACT

Strategic Plan

2021-2025



Who We Are

Landcare ACT is the peak representative body for community Landcare in the ACT region. LACT represents, supports and promotes the thousands of community Landcarers, who collectively make up more than 70 groups Territory-wide.

Landcare is an iconic, Australia-wide institution that improves the health of our environment, farms, cultural heritage and communities. In the ACT each year, Landcare contributes at least \$2 million in in-kind work and attracts \$2 million in grant funding and partnerships.

Community Landcare in the ACT Region is broad and diverse. It includes rural, urban, junior and Aboriginal people protecting and improving their local areas as well as individuals engaging in community building activities and a multitude of citizen science projects.

The foundation members of Landcare ACT are the three ACT Landcare networks (Ginninderra, Southern ACT and Molonglo Catchment Groups), the Rural Landholders' Association and Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation.

Landcare ACT has a skills based Board and a representative Members Council. Members come together regularly to innovate and plan, coordinate on grant and other funding opportunities, share successes, discuss potential partnerships and provide support in overcoming challenges.

Landcare ACT is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. It provides a conduit voice from the grassroots to the national level through as part of the National Landcare Network. Additionally, Landcare ACT works with Landcare Australia Limited, as appropriate.

Landcare ACT, with our passionate member groups, engage the community in delivering programs spanning projects that range from species protection and bushfire recovery to rural regeneration and innovation.

Landcare ACT acknowledges the First Australian's, especially the local Ngunawal people, who have cared for and managed our continent for millennia and continue to care for country today. We respect Ngunawal people's knowledge, skills and responsibilities in land and water management and their role in leading the planning and caring for country.

Our Vision

Communities improving and maintaining healthy, productive and resilient landscapes

Our Mission

To be a representative, effective and trusted voice for the diverse Landcare community in the ACT and Region

Our Purpose

To represent, support, promote and grow the community Landcare movement in the ACT and Region as a key strategy for improving and maintaining healthy productive and resilient landscapes

Values

Representative and consultative

We promote the views and needs of the grassroots Landcare movement and its core philosophies of local decision making, community volunteerism and community benefits (ground up). We represent views that are developed through consultation with members.

Inclusive and non-party political

We welcome and encourage participation in Landcare from all sectors of our diverse communities. The diverse perspectives of Landcare communities inform the movement's multi-partisan approach and are not specific to any political party.

Knowledge-based and adaptive

We build, share and apply knowledge old and new, western and traditional. Specifically, we seek to have the knowledges of Ngunawal and other local Australian Indigenous peoples shape community Landcare. We respond effectively to new challenges and are open to new ways of working.

Open and transparent

We are clear, open and honest in our communication and approach.

Focussed on making a difference

We produce real outcomes for the environment, our Landcare communities, the broader Australian community, our partners, and government.

Strategic Pillars

1. Representation and influence

Ensure the voice of community Landcare is influential and trusted in ACT conversations on NRM, environment, agriculture, Aboriginal heritage, liveability and bushfire and other disaster recovery efforts

- Build strong, active relationships with key Territory decision makers and policy makers
- Contribute to territory discussions and consultation processes on Landcare related issues, including the development of position statements
- Situate investment in community Landcare as a key component of environmental management in the ACT and highlight the multiple benefits of Landcare, including in health and education
- Develop and engage in positive working arrangements with ACT NRM, as the Regional Body
- Build and maintain relationships with key non-government and government partners

Maintain representational processes and structures

- Support an active Members Council that effectively represents community Landcare in the ACT
- Document the representational processes and networks of Landcare ACT and members and assist members in improving these where required
- Serve as a representative Territory forum for the identification and resolution of Landcare related issues and challenges

Participate in national discussions about Landcare, where appropriate

- Participate in national Landcare projects and policy development with National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia
- Participate in the National Landcare Network Members Council and CEO meetings and programs^[1]_{SEP}
- Build constructive relationships with local Members of Parliament

2. Support a diverse community Landcare movement to steward the Territory's natural resources

Support and work with members in engaging diverse community involvement in Landcare activities

- Seek the leadership of Ngunawal and other Aboriginal people to guide caring for country activities and support Ngunawal caring for country activities
- Support youth, women and other minority groups to be engaged in Landcare

- Support community involvement in specific ACT wide Landcare events

Undertake and promote projects and forums that resolve issues of common concern, support the development of related policy and advocacy and/or increase the capacity of members and the community Landcare movement

- Support community Landcare in addressing climate change related issues
- Work with Ngunawal and other Aboriginal people to guide developing and implementing activities, projects and programs focussed on caring for country
- Develop and implement programs and projects that support the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices
- Develop and implement events, programs and projects that support children and younger people in engaging in Landcare and/or promote community leadership and resilience development
- Develop and implement events, projects and programs in response to member concerns
- Share systems and skills among members

3. Promote Landcare and the achievements of the community Landcare movement

Communicate and promote the value and role of community Landcare to increase public awareness, influence decision makers and attract more participants to the movement.

- Raise the profile of the community landcare, LACT and Member Groups to existing and potential volunteers, the general public, decision makers and national landcare movement
- Develop and promote targeted media projects and communications products

Build and promote an evidence base of the collective expertise and effectiveness of the Landcare movement

- Collate evidence demonstrating the knowledge and impact of Landcare activities in the ACT region
- Design a campaign to communicate this synthesised information to volunteers, members, the general public, government and decision makers

Increase brand influence and mitigate appropriation of the Landcare identity

- Apply consistent branding in all LACT communications
- Coordinate and partner in ACT and Region wide events/activities aimed at increasing the Landcare brand and celebrating achievements of landcarers

4. Efficient organisation

Ensure effective internal governance, organisational structures and processes

- Maintain a strong and cohesive Board
- Ensure governance documents and processes are up to date, embody good practice and foster engagement between the Board and Members Council

Ensure LACT and is financially viable

- Develop grant applications aligned with the organisation's strategic priorities and Commonwealth and Territory grant rounds^[SEP]
- Explore options for diversification of Landcare beyond the environment sector, including health, (particularly mental health), youth, education, heritage^[SEP]
- Explore options for philanthropic funding

Create and maintain communications products to achieve organisational goals

- Develop and implement communications plan

