



## National Landcare Network

# National Landcare Network Communiqué

February 2011

The National Landcare Network comprising representatives of community Landcare in each state and territory, met in Sydney on February 20 & 21. Each reported the status of community Landcare engagement in NRM in their state or territory including involvement in managing the Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) positions.

While consortia involving Landcare networks and their CMAs secured management of RLF positions in ACT and most regions in NSW, in most other states and the NT, RLF assignment to NRM regions was resulting in minimal engagement with community Landcare. In SA where all 8 NRM boards had been subsumed under the state Department (DENR) and all GMs replaced by DENR Regional Managers, all RLFs had also been assigned to NRM boards. This was despite a strong application from the Aboriginal Lands Trust, the established employer of a dozen indigenous Landcare Coordinators who had achieved widespread indigenous involvement in Landcare.

In a teleconference link Kim Chance, Chair of the Australian Landcare Council (ALC) acknowledged that NLN is the representative of community Landcare across Australia and undertook to provide the draft Landcare Framework Action Plan for distribution to members for comment, so the Action Plan will represent the views of the Landcare movement. NLN offered to conduct the community consultation process via its state and territory representatives, their networks and groups, however this was not agreed to by the ALC. The NLN's attendance at each ALC meeting were also discussed.

In a follow-up to a previous meeting of the NLN Executive with Sarah Ryan, Chair of National Regional NRM Chairs, and Pam Green (Chair Southern Rivers CMA in NSW) at which the role of NLN and implications of Sarah Ryan's study on regional NRM delivery were discussed, the NLN expressed its strong support for the regional model. It emphasized its interest in the proposed 'Progressing the Relationship' project to ensure actual resource managers and their communities are empowered and capacitated to be fully engaged in regional NRM. It was agreed to collaborate in advocating that government and Regional NRM boards support Landcare, examine processes to improve relationships between CMAs and community Landcare and build the capacity of NRM regions to better engage communities, more specifically to:

- work together to build the capacity of the partnership
- foster cooperative and collegiate management of our landscapes with people
- understand more clearly how landcare is operating in each state and territory
- secure more \$ for the restoration of landscapes and capacity building

It was also agreed to further pursue NLN's request for a seat at the NRM Round Table involving representatives of Australian Regional NRM Chairs, WWF, ACF and NFF which formed at end of NHT2 to promote continuation of the regional model. Sarah Ryan will produce a communiqué in regard to this meeting.

Brett de Hayr, National Landcare Facilitator, confirmed the NLN is widely accepted as representing grassroots community Landcare and advised the NLN seize the initiative and advocate strongly for greater community engagement in whatever NRM program follows CFOC.

Peter Cozier outlined the origins, objectives and activities of the Wentworth Group including its current focus on water reform, carbon and NRM accounting. Discussion ranged across the theory and practice of the regional model, the current situation ruling in each state and territory and the major role that Landcare must play in holistic landscape management for healthy and productive landscapes.

Tony Gleeson introduced the *Australian Land Management Certification System*, its development over a decade with support from Elders, Australian Wool Innovation, etc, to comply with internationally recognized environmental management standards (SIO 14001), to capture environmental risks and how these can be managed in a relatively simple and low cost manner.

Melissa Whitelaw of Landcare Australia Limited noted that LAL had completed its re-organisation and regeneration under new CEO Heather Campbell. Melissa also reported that Landcare Awards categories have been rationalised, confirmed and publicised.