

A guiding framework for collaboration and engagement between Community Landcare and Regional NRM organisations

The framework builds on recognition that we are stronger together in achieving outcomes for communities and landscapes. It outlines principles for delivering on our shared objectives, and the mechanisms designed to bring these principles to life.



THE CHAIRS' JOINT FOREWORD

STRESSORS

WE ARE HERE FOR OUR MEMBERS, BUT EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT WE ARE ALL HERE FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW.

NATIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK

Amanaus



PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK

The National Statement of Collaboration Principles is a guiding framework co-designed to support Community Landcare and Regional NRMs as they work together to ensure effective and efficient outcomes for the environment. In outlining principles and mechanisms for delivering on our shared objectives, the framework has provided an opportunity for the National Landcare Network and NRM Regions Australia to redefine our strategic national partnership.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK IS TO:

- Nelp us improve outcomes for our communities and landscapes;
- Demonstrate the value of the NRM and Landcare system to our members, partners and funders;
- Inform our members and others about how we work around the country; and
- Demonstrate ways we can encourage a positive culture of collaboration and engagement across the entire sector.

OUR SHARED GOALS

...a guiding framework co-designed to support Community Landcare and Regional NRMs as they work together to ensure effective

> Natural Resource Management in Australia is continuously evolving to meet the challenges of our times. This framework lays the foundations for the next five years, recognising how important both Landcare and the Regional NRM organisations are to environmental management, community resilience ecosystem restoration in Australia. NRM organisations oversee the creation of Regional NRM Plans and integrated delivery and funding processes. Community Landcare* is a grassroots network across Australia, leading in long-term communitybased environmental volunteerism and knowledge exchange that supports on-ground NRM delivery.

> Community Landcare and Regional NRM Organisations across Australia share a common purpose in addressing significant challenges faced by communities in land stewardship, natural resource management, and farm

productivity. As a sector together, we strive for soil, water, landscape and habitat health outcomes against a backdrop of increasing climate extremes. Our shared goals guide the establishment of enduring and productive relationships to build our sector, the communities we serve, and the resilience of our landscapes.

There is diversity in our organisational ecosystem and some overlap in our respective roles and goals. To achieve our common objective, overlapping boundaries are beneficial as this provides the system with a buffer in line with established resilience principles. However, we need to define some principles for our collaboration, to guide our dynamic relationships, and especially to provide a process that helps to clarify roles and functions at the state and regional level.

Note throughout the text Landcare is inclusive of coast, land, bush, water, and river care groups and friends of organisations.



Purpose 1. Help us improve outcomes for our communities and landscapes.

Purpose 2. Show the value of NRM and Landcare to our members, partners and funders.

Purpose 3. Inform our members and others about how we work around the country.

Purpose 4. Demonstrate ways we can improve cutlure, engagement and alignment

Outcome: Supportive and productive relationships between the NRM Sector and Community Landcare.

Sub-Outcome: NRM people and Landcare people recognise and value the importance of collaboration and behave in supportive ways.

Sub-Outcome: Governments and other stakeholders recognise that NRM and Landcare are working together to inform, and implement policy.

Output:

National Statement of Collaboration Principles

Output:

NRM orgnisations and the Landcare community maintain effective working relationships at the regional scale

Output:

NRM orgnisations and Landcare leaders and staff have access to resources and guidance materials that support collaboration

Measure of success

National Measure:

National
Chairs/Boards
and CEO's enjoy
a trusting,
productive
relationship

Indicators: evel of satisfaction

via feedback; regular meetings of Chairs/CEOs

State/Regional Measure:

At a regional level, a mutually benefical relationship

Indicators:

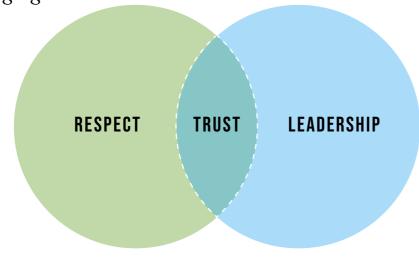
MOUs; Collaboration in roject developmen and the efficient location of project resources

PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

The Collaboration Principles provide a foundation for the relationship between the National Landcare Network & NRM Regions Australia acknowledging that:

- · Both networks have a critical role in environmental/natural resource management in Australia.
- Advantages to sharing roles are recognised and encouraged, particularly as having extra buffers in the system enhances resilience.
- · Many activities are scale dependent and require social or place-based processes to succeed.
- · Local and regional processes need to be recognised as parallel, nested or overlapping to foster collaboration.
- · We respect the differences between each organisation's directions and priorities.
- · We work to articulate, acknowledge and understand our respective roles and responsibilities (both locally and regionally) to increase alignment and collaboration, in doing so, we acknowledge that this will look different around the country.

The principles below have been proposed to guide effective collaboration between Community Landcare and Regional NRM Organisations.



RESPECT

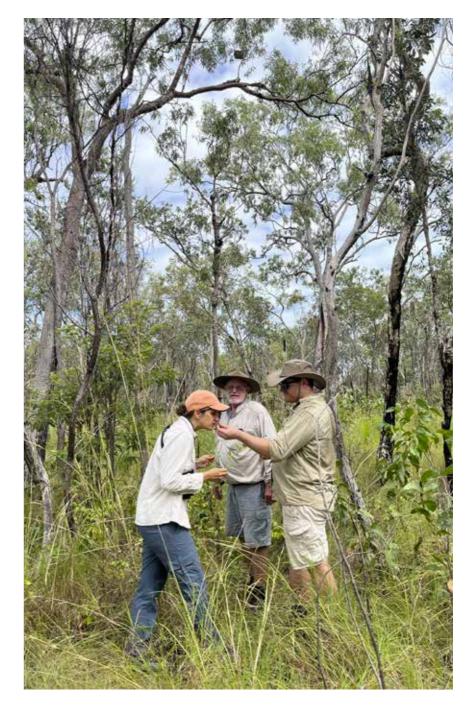
- · Model the behaviours, walking the talk
- · Focus on the commonalities
- · Recognise and advocate for each other

LEADER -SHIP

- · Acknowledge and respect the differences between each organisation's directions and priorities.
- · Where there are opportunities for mutual benefit, work together to achieve reciprocity.
- · Show commitment to our relationship, working to resolve differences early and in-house.

TRUST

- Engage in open and transparent exchange of information as appropriate.
- Share challenges while viewing perceived threats as potential opportunities.
- · Take time to build understanding at all levels of our organisations.



DELIVERING STRONGER COLLABORATION

The objectives of this framework could be achieved through any number of the following mechanisms or activities as co-designed at the local and regional scale:

- MOUs at various levels (that are aligned by principles, values and behaviours)
- Joint events such as field days and workshops (with collaboration in organising the events but also through joint presentations/ delivery)
- Collaborative projects with Joint Steering Committee representation, as appropriate
- Role modelling a collaborative approach to all our members and communities
- Establishing communication protocols at the jurisdictional and regional level that work for all parties
- Establishing a Working Group at the national level
- Joint media and publications around key stories and case studies
- Collaboratively participating in planning processes, providing input into plans, and reviewing draft documents with assurances given that collective input will be incorporated appropriately.
- Increased community engagement resulting improved landscape-scale outcomes.
- Increasing investment in the regional model and the efficient and effective allocation of funds to delivery partners including Community Landcare.
- Celebrating the collective achievements and benefits of collaboration.



MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Success could be gauged through any number of the following measures or others as co-designed:

NATIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Measure - National Chairs/Boards and CEOs enjoy a trusting, productive relationship.

Indicator - Regular meetings between Chairs/CEOs at the national level.

Indicator – Level of satisfaction via annual feedback mechanism (e.g., survey/strawpoll).

STATE AND REGIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Measure - At a regional level, a mutually beneficial relationship.

Indicator – Collaboration in project development and the efficient and effective allocation of project resources.

Indicator - MOUs at the jurisdictional and regional scale.

EVALUATION

The Working Group will meet 3 and 6 months after finalisation of the National Statement of Collaboration Principles guiding framework to monitor progress and effectiveness, with a full review after 12 months.



NRM REGIONS

