



Position Description - National Landcare Network Citizen Science & Policy Advocacy Manager

1. Position Details

Position Title	Citizen Science & Policy Advocacy Manager
Specifications	Policy Advocate, Knowledge Broker, Product Development
Salary	\$134, 000
Location	Canberra Preferred
Status	Fixed Term, Full-time (neg) – 12 month contract with possibility of 12 months' extension subject to funding
Reports to	CEO

2. Position Overview:

The Citizen Science & Policy Advocacy Manager is a national policy advocate and strategic enabler, responsible for amplifying the voice of grassroots Landcare communities in national policy forums and submissions. In partnership with the CEO this role leads NLN's efforts to influence Government Policy through evidence-based advocacy to ensure that the strategic goals of the National Landcare Network are supported. In addition to policy leadership, the position supports knowledge exchange and capacity building across the Landcare network. This function ensures that volunteers are empowered with the tools, resources, and learning pathways to contribute meaningfully to both environmental outcomes and climate smart agriculture.

3. Key Responsibilities:

Policy Advocacy and Submissions

- Develop and coordinate high-impact policy submissions to government inquiries, consultations, and legislative reviews.
- Lead NLN's national policy advocacy strategy for environmental volunteering, and community-led NRM.



- Monitor emerging policy trends and proactively identify opportunities for NLN to influence national frameworks.
- Collaborate with State and Territory Landcare Organisations (STLOs) and grassroots groups to ensure policy positions reflect diverse regional perspectives. Work closely with the CEO and Communications Manager to align policy messaging with strategic outreach and storytelling.
- Represent NLN in national policy forums, working groups, and advisory panels to advocate for volunteer and community priorities.

Volunteer Impact Through Knowledge & Capacity Building

- Empower volunteers by connecting them with relevant policy insights, tools, and expertise to amplify their impact.
- Build and maintain digital platforms that support learning, collaboration, and engagement across the Landcare network.
- Integrate citizen science and policy literacy into volunteer programs to strengthen environmental outcomes and community advocacy.
- Co-design learning pathways and capacity-building initiatives with STLOs, tailored to local needs and national priorities.
- Support volunteer growth through mentoring, peer learning, and communities of practice.
- Facilitate forums, webinars, and knowledge-sharing events to promote innovation, best practices, and continuous learning across the network.

4. Qualifications/Experience:

- Tertiary qualifications in environmental science, education, community development, or a related field.
- Experience working in or with not-for-profit organisations or government-funded programs.
- Demonstrated experience in knowledge brokering, capacity building, or volunteer program development at a national or state level.
- Strong understanding of citizen science, corporate volunteering, and community engagement.
- Experience in designing and delivering online learning or capability-building modules.
- Proven ability to facilitate cross-sector collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Excellent communication, stakeholder engagement, and project management skills.
- Familiarity with the Landcare movement, NRM practices, and environmental volunteering is highly desirable.



5. What Success Looks Like in This Role – Citizen Science & Policy Advocacy Manager (NLN):

- NLN's policy submissions influence national frameworks, are regularly cited in government reports, and reflect the voices of volunteers and STLOs.
- NLN secures ongoing funding and maintains a visible presence in national policy forums, advisory panels, and working groups.
- NLN is recognised as a national leader in volunteer capacity building, knowledge mobilisation, and policy advocacy within the environmental sector.
- A widely adopted suite of volunteer learning tools and resources is actively used across STLOs, contributing to increased volunteer participation, retention, and confidence in NRM and citizen science.
- A dynamic knowledge exchange ecosystem supports continuous learning, innovation, and the sharing of best practices across the Landcare network.
- Citizen science is embedded in volunteer programs, generating valuable environmental data and empowering community-led action.
- Volunteers report feeling valued, supported, and equipped to make meaningful contributions to

6. Our Values and Behaviours

Representative - Promoting the views and needs of the grassroots Landcare movement and its core philosophies of local decision making, community volunteerism and community benefits (ground up).

- Actively listens to and reflects the voices of grassroots Landcare communities in decision-making.
- Advocates for local knowledge and community-led solutions in national forums.
- Ensures that programs and policies are grounded in the needs and aspirations of volunteers and local groups.

Consultative - The views we represent are developed through consultation with our members.

- Seeks input from members and stakeholders before making decisions that affect them.
- Facilitates inclusive and transparent consultation processes.
- Communicates how feedback has influenced outcomes.

Non-Party Political - The diverse perspectives of Landcare communities inform the movement's bi-partisan approach and are not specific to any political party.

- Maintains neutrality in political discourse while advocating for community and environmental outcomes.



- Engages respectfully with all political stakeholders.
- Ensures messaging and advocacy are grounded in shared values, not party positions.

Knowledge-Based - We build, share, and apply evidence-based knowledge – traditional and new.

- Uses data, research, and lived experience to inform decisions and recommendations.
- Shares knowledge openly across the network to build collective capability.
- Seeks out and applies both traditional and innovative practices.

Networked & Collaborative - Connecting people with people and with the landscape, bonding within networks and bridging across them.

- Builds and nurtures relationships across the Landcare network and beyond.
- Encourages collaboration over competition.
- Connects individuals and groups to amplify impact and share resources.

Inclusive - We are inclusive of all persons and groups with similar aims and objectives as ours.

- Welcomes diverse perspectives and backgrounds into the Landcare movement.
- Proactively removes barriers to participation.
- Creates safe and respectful spaces for dialogue and collaboration.

Focused on Making a Difference - Producing real outcomes for the environment, for our Landcare communities, for the broader Australian community, for our partners and for government.

- Sets clear goals and measures progress toward meaningful outcomes.
- Prioritises actions that deliver tangible environmental and community benefits.
- Celebrates and shares stories of impact to inspire others.

Traditional Custodianship - We acknowledge the traditional custodians of all the lands and waters on which we live, work, and manage. We recognise their deep connections, physical, and cultural to those lands and waters, and commit to learning, sharing and applying knowledge and practices of traditional custodianship in all we do and advocate for.

- Acknowledges and respects the cultural and spiritual connection of First Nations peoples to Country.
- Seeks opportunities to learn from and collaborate with Traditional Custodians.
- Embeds cultural awareness and respect into everyday practice.



How To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) addressing the key responsibilities of the position and CV by email to michelle.young@nln.org.au no later than **Monday 10 November at 11pm**.

For further information or queries get in touch with Michelle Young at 0437 256 513 or by email at michelle.young@nln.org.au.

About the National Landcare Network

The National Landcare Network is the peak representative body for community Landcare groups across Australia. The National Landcare Network gives a voice for Community Landcare across the country with over 2000 active State and Territory Landcare Organisation members representing 6000 plus individual Landcare groups and over 160000 Landcarers across Australia. We represent community Landcare across the country and seeks to foster, support and strengthen the knowledge, resources and capabilities of the Landcare movement and the thousands of volunteers who are at its heart. Learn more about us and our work at www.nln.org.au/.