

# WA Landcare Network

## 1. Overview

WA has almost a third of Australia's land mass, 2.5mill sq kms and half of Australia's 25,780 kms of coastline to manage. This proposal is for WA Landcare Network to be the streamlined state coordinating body for this initiative coordinating effort by community land and coastcare groups and region NRM bodies. It will provides opportunities for city people, regional and Aboriginal communities to get stuck into productive and important labour to restore, protect and extend natural areas, build skills, and improve mental and physical health of workers engaged in the programs across the state. Employment across the conservation sector will boost local economies, rebuilt businesses including nurseries, hardware and rural retail, cafes, community not for profit enterprises, tourism and farming businesses.

**Shorter term projects** of six months will give larger number of people a boost in skills, employment and mental health by undertaking practical lower skilled work that addresses environmental repair work post fires, droughts and floods, helps manage the most vulnerable coastal areas, helps with repair and construction of tracks and trails ,builds inspiring projects reconnecting and restoring landscapes in urban and rural areas, helps with maintenance on heritage and community infrastructure and other environmental and community priorities identified locally through regional NRM strategies and caring for our country Aboriginal regional strategies. The proposed Landcare corps would see both groups of young people and groups of mixed ages to cater for the range of people impacted by Covid19.

**Longer program elements** are landcare and coastal coordinator positions spread across many LGAs to make sure all projects meet with conservation priorities already identified in regional NRM and sub regional strategies, link projects to local government, agencies, local community groups, farmers and residents. Landcare traineeships and Aboriginal ranger programs provides longer opportunities to increase skills and contribute to projects working alongside landcare and coastal coordinators. Both coordinators and trainees would be anticipated to spend time undertaking hands on tasks.

**Specific programs to link** city children and adults wanting to contribute to the environment with rural and coastal priority projects and citizen science programs are important in building community post Covid19 where people have experienced isolation and a sense of powerlessness. These programs would be based on predominantly self drive opportunities with camping on site to provide a sense of community while maintaining distancing and hygiene.

**Whole of landscape** restoration and reconnection are inspiring and effective. They provide beacons of hope where communities across regions can join in common effort. They are affective in protecting and restoring habitats and ecological function for priority at risk flora and fauna species. Gondwana Link is already well established exemplar in WA, the wheatbelt is a crucial area needing this effort and the Perth metropolitan area will connect the 85% of WA's population to an inspiring common conservation effort.

## 2. Estimated number of new positions

[3,101] people employed.

[2876] full time equivalent positions.

## 3. Types of conservation and land management activities

<input type="checkbox"/> Bushfire recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weed management
<input type="checkbox"/> Feral animal control	<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Revegetation / Tree planting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire management
<input type="checkbox"/> Fencing construction and repair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail, track and road work
<input type="checkbox"/> Building and repairing visitor facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring and data collection
<input type="checkbox"/> River and creek line restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coastal / marine habitat restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):		

## 4. Level of skill and expertise needed

Light outdoor work, no experience necessary

Physically fit for heavier outdoor work

Building / construction / farm experience

## Number of positions (FTE)

[1500] FTE

[400] FTE

[300] FTE

Trade qualifications (e.g. carpenter, mechanic)	[44] FTE
Conservation and land management experience	[380] FTE
Team leader / experience managing staff and volunteers	[112] FTE
Operations / project management	[40] FTE
Specialised technical knowledge	[80] FTE
Office based / administrative work	[20] FTE

## 5. Geographic distribution

WA Metropolitan LGAs	FTE	WA Metropolitan LGAs	FTE	Regional LGAs	FTE
Armadale, City of	27.7	Melville, City of	21	Albany, City of	72
Bassendean, Town of	3	Mosman Park, Town of	12	Ashburton, Shire of	22.2
Bayswater, City of	19	Mundaring, Shire of	19	Augusta–Margaret River, Shire of	33
Belmont, City of	15	Nedlands, City of	12	Broome, Shire of	65.9
Cambridge, Town of	13	Peppermint Grove, Shire of	3	Broomehill-Tambellup, Shire of	3
Canning, City of	23	Perth, City of	33	Bruce Rock, Shire of	3
Claremont, Town of	3	Rockingham, City of	45	Bunbury, City of	57.2
Cockburn, City of	29	Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Shire	21	Busselton, City of	21
Cottesloe, Town of	3	South Perth, City of	30.5	Capel, Shire of	19
East Fremantle, Town of	3	Stirling, City of	35	Carnarvon, Shire of	40.2
Fremantle, City of	24	Subiaco, City of	3	Chapman Valley, Shire of	3
Gosnells, City of	40.5	Swan, City of	61.2	Chittering, Shire of	21
Joondalup, City of	40.5	Victoria Park, Town of	17	Christmas Island, Shire of	3
Kalamunda, City of	29	Vincent, City of	17	Collie, Shire of	38.2
Kwinana, City of	39	Wanneroo, City of	43.5	Coolgardie, Shire of	6
Regional LGAs	311.7	Regional LGAs	373.2	Regional LGAs	407.7
Coorow, Shire of	6	Laverton, Shire of	19.2	Mandurah, City of	57.2
Corrigin, Shire of	3	Leonora, Shire of	25.2	Manjimup, Shire of	21
Cranbrook, Shire of	6	Mandurah, City of	57.2	Meekatharra, Shire of	19.2
Cunderdin, Shire of	3	Manjimup, Shire of	21	Merredin, Shire of	22
Dalwallinu, Shire of	3	Meekatharra, Shire of	19.2	Moora, Shire of	25.2
Dandaragan, Shire of	6	Merredin, Shire of	22	Murray, Shire of	62.4
Dardanup, Shire of	21	Moora, Shire of	25.2	Nannup, Shire of	3
Denmark, Shire of	22.5	Murray, Shire of	62.4	Narrogin, Shire of	35.2
Derby-West Kimberley, Shire of	47.4	Nannup, Shire of	3	Ngaanyatjarraku, Shire of	19.2
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire	21	Narrogin, Shire of	35.2	Northam, Shire of	44.7
Dumbleyung, Shire of	3	Ngaanyatjarraku, Shire of	19.2	Northampton, Shire of	3
Dundas, Shire of	6	Northam, Shire of	44.7	Plantagenet, Shire of	43.7
East Pilbara, Shire of	65.4	Northampton, Shire of	3	Port Hedland, Town of	51.2
Esperance, Shire of	76.4	Plantagenet, Shire of	43.7	Quairading, Shire of	3
Exmouth, Shire of	24	Port Hedland, Town of	51.2	Ravensthorpe, Shire of	15.5
Gingin, Shire of	28.5	Quairading, Shire of	3	Shark Bay, Shire of	25.2
Gnowangerup, Shire of	22.2	Ravensthorpe, Shire of	15.5	Three Springs, Shire of	6
Goomalling, Shire of	3	Shark Bay, Shire of	25.2	Toodyay, Shire of	13

Greater Geraldton, City of	52.2	Three Springs, Shire of	6	Wagin, Shire of	22.2
Halls Creek, Shire of	49.2	Toodyay, Shire of	13	Waroona, Shire of	35.2
Harvey, Shire of	24	Wagin, Shire of	22.2	Williams, Shire of	3
Jerramungup, Shire of	6	Waroona, Shire of	35.2	Wongan-Ballidu, Shire of	3
Kalgoorlie-Boulder, City of	65.4	Williams, Shire of	3	Wyndham East Kimberley, Shire of	54.4
Karratha, City of	43.5	Wongan-Ballidu, Shire of	3	Yilgarn, Shire of	3
Katanning, Shire of	44.2	Wyndham East Kimberley, Shire of	54.4	York, Shire of	34.4
Kellerberrin, Shire of	6	Yilgarn, Shire of	3		
Kojoonup, Shire of	6	York, Shire of	34.4		
Kondinin, Shire of	3	Laverton, Shire of	19.2		
Lake Grace, Shire of	3	Leonora, Shire of	25.2		

### Expected conservation and land management outcomes

Post bushfire, drought, flood recovery: **Assessment** of areas affected by fire, drought & flood 2019/2020.

Weed and Feral animal control when native animals are most vulnerable and weeds are opportunistic. Fencing repair and reinstatement to protect remnant vegetation, waterways and wetlands

Direct seeding/tree planting to restore ecological function, water quality and waterway protection, farm shelter.

Landcare and Coastcare action on the ground: Fencing, seed collection, direct seeding, tree planting, coastal erosion control, weed and feral animal control, flora and fauna citizen science monitoring, monitoring of works undertaken, assessment and protection cultural heritage.

Community infrastructure assessment maintenance and construction: tracks and trails work, community and heritage maintenance and protection, repairs community buildings, community vegetable gardens

Waste: Assistance with recycling, composting and waste management systems especially in rural areas where they are poor.

Landscape wide restoration and protection: Metro, Wheatbelt and Gondwana Link. Contribute to the planning in the Metro and Wheatbelt initiatives and to implementing on ground work in Gondwana Link.

Increased areas regenerative farming and rangeland management through establishment of native grasses, native fodder crops, local native tree crops and shelterbelts as well as fencing of wetlands, waterways and native vegetation.

**Coastal activities: management of erosion areas, seed collection, revegetation, signage, weed control, closing tracks, construction of infrastructure.**

**Monitoring** Every project will need to have a monitoring and assessment component. Regional NRM and caring for country strategies will provide the framework for assessing success. Large landscape projects such as Gondwana Link already have quality monitoring in place that will be use as example for other projects. Practical short term outcomes are easy, citizen science supported by scientists setting up monitoring for conservation outcomes will be undertaken for all projects.

### 6. Organisational experience in effectively managing conservation field programs

Since 2013 WA Landcare Network Inc (WALN) has been the peak community Landcare body for Western Australia representing and supporting WA's landcare groups at the state and national levels. It is a member of and works closely with the National Landcare Network (NLN) along with the peak bodies across all other states and territories. WALN provides networking between its 125 members groups and associate members and more widely to the over 700 landcare groups in WA. It hosted the highly successful 2019 state NRM and Coastal Conference which had a focus on presenting a prominent Aboriginal program for the first time. WALN has collated the State of Landcare Report 2017 and Landcare Survey 2019 to shed light on community Landcare's status in WA and what policies are needed to drive accelerated effort and on ground action. WALN has coordinated community member forums and other events. It has actively supported a WA landcare, NRM and coastal stakeholders group to bring peak bodies in WA together to collaboration and advocate for extended resourcing particularly from the state government. Many WALN members have decades of experience in managing staff and significant programs. WALN proposes to be the WA core delivery organisation reporting directly to the Federal government and with contracts to groups according to their appropriate skills and capacity, track record, environment needs and employment stimulus requirements.

### **Building on existing delivery mechanisms**

WALN has a funding agreement with the federal government through the National Landcare Program via the NLN. This proposed program, would build on existing landcare programs and projects that have been successfully run over the past three decades across the state. WALN will have a coordinating and reporting team managing the contracting to community landcare groups on the basis of the quality of proposals that meet the economic stimulus and long term environment outcomes of the program. We believe this is the most cost effective way to ensure that the economic stimulus funding sees the maximum number of people offered positions that raises their skills, positive mental health status, networks and ability to locate long term employment at the same time as contributing to a legacy of conservation restoration, knowledge and protection in WA.

Criteria for prioritising projects will include: priority conservation outcomes meeting Federal, State and Local priorities; impacted by Covid19; fire, drought or flood affected (as identified by Federal and State government agencies); ability for local communities to manage and monitor successfully; long term conservation impacts; cross landscape impacts.

### **7. Ensuring safe program delivery, including COVID-19 health measures**

Worker safety is paramount in a post Covid-19 pandemic world requiring all WHS protocols to be updated with appropriate distancing, hygiene and training prior to new workers being started in any position.

WALN would work with State and Federal government departments and training delivery organisations including TAFE and St Johns Ambulance to coordinate appropriate training. The CVA In Safe Hands Toolkit for conservation activities is a good starting point to build on with specific modules post Covid-19 to be inserted.

Many conservation activities are outdoors and led themselves to work done by small teams and maintaining social distancing requirements. A key challenge is maintaining social distance when travel is required to and from work sites. Rigorous rules around staying home if not well would be enforced. Options to be explored include employees making their own way to sites, breaking larger groups into small teams for transporting to and from jobs, provision of larger capacity buses where social distancing can be maintained (eg 22 seater coaster buses for teams of 9) and cars carrying two people will need to be explored. Self drive community activities such as community plantings with careful group management on site (eg dividing groups into small cells of activity to maintain distancing) will be required.

Supervisors will need to be selected on the basis of their preparedness to meet all safe program delivery requirements, with COVID-19 health measures a particular focus.