



PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICE

NSW Parliament • Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney 2000

Referred by: Australian Labor Party

Proposal No: C1645

Date Referred: 15 March 2003

Date Published: 20/03/2023

Proposal Title: Landcare NSW

Cluster: Regional NSW

General Government Sector Impacts

	2022-23 \$'000	2023-24 \$'000	2024-25 \$'000	2025-26 \$'000	4 year Total \$'000
Expenses (ex. depreciation)	-	757	757	757	2,270
Depreciation					-
Less: Offsets					-
Revenue					-
Net Operating Balance:	-	(757)	(757)	(757)	(2,270)

Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Offsets					
Net Capital Expenditure:	-	-	-	-	-

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	(757)	(757)	(757)	(2,270)
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Total State Sector Impacts

Net Lending/(Borrowing):	-	(757)	(757)	(757)	(2,270)
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Notes and costing assumptions:

The proposal is to provide NSW Landcare with a total of \$59 million in funding through 2026-27, including \$5.824 million currently in the budget. The policy states the funding package should also make use of 'reserved' and 'unallocated' funds in the Regional Growth Fund (RGF).

The policy states the priority of this funding should go to regional areas and assumes that up to 85 per cent of Landcare programs are in regional NSW. Accordingly, the proposal states 85 per cent of the funding is to be offset by the RGF.

After the offset from the budget and the RGF, the PBO estimates the cost of this policy over the forward estimates will be \$2.27 million (\$757,000 x 3 years, see Table 1).

Current budget

The PBO has been advised by Regional NSW that the \$29.8 million in the budget in 2022-23 for Landcare includes landcare programs with the Commonwealth which are independent and exclusive of state funding. Therefore, the amount of NSW government funding available for Landcare NSW is \$5.824 million in 2022-23.

Notes and costing assumptions continued:

Regional Growth Fund

The Department of Regional NSW advised the PBO of the balance of funds available in the RGF and the PBO notes that 'reserved' and 'unallocated' funds in the RGF are adequate to cover the proposal.

It should be noted that RGF 'reserved' funds have been earmarked for other programs like the Growing Regional Economies Fund, the Regional Job Creation Fund Round 3 and the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 6. Using RGF funds for Landcare NSW may affect these other programs.

Regional/Metro projects

The PBO has been advised that out of 54 current Landcare NSW contracts, 49 are in regional areas and five are within the Greater Sydney region. This means about 90 per cent of current Landcare NSW projects are regional. This is close to the 85 per cent assumption of the policy.

Based on current funds available in the budget and 85 per cent of funding coming from the RGF, total funding for this policy is as below:

Table 1. Profile of annual spending

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current Budget (metro Landcare programs)	5,824					5,824
RGF: 85% of funding (regional Landcare programs)		12,538	12,538	12,538	12,538	50,150
Add. Budget expense (metro Landcare programs)		757	757	757	757	3,026
Total funding						59,000

Landcare

Landcare NSW connects local Landcare communities with key decision makers to ensure that they are provided with leadership, skills, resources, and representation.

Landcare NSW provides financial support for projects that bring together farmers, landowners, conservationists, and nature lovers.

Landcare NSW partners with State and Federal Governments, corporate organisations, not-for-profit organisations, farming peak bodies, and other Landcare state/territory and national peak bodies.