



South East
Landcare

STRATEGIC PLAN

SOUTH EAST LANDCARE

(2026-2029)

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN PROVIDES A CLEAR DIRECTION FOR SOUTH EAST LANDCARE,
OUTLINING OUR PURPOSE, VALUES, COMMITMENTS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR
THE YEARS AHEAD.

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About Us

About South East Landcare

South East Landcare (SEL) is a federation of 14 District Landcare Networks, and they in turn support a further 112 Landcare sub-groups involved in on-ground work¹.

Collectively, we work across the South East corner of NSW reaching across the border into Victoria². In total, our geographic remit covers an area of 55,600 km² across a wide variety of significant biodiverse regions, including rainforest, coastal, alpine, grazing and box gum grassy woodland areas.

In 2024-2025, over 200 partnerships supported the implementation of SEL and District Landcare Networks' projects and activities, including with environmental groups, government agencies, universities, community organisations and corporations, local Landcare members and members of the community.

Our people are the dedicated heart of our collective work and achievements. The vast majority, hundreds of people – members, committee members, community groups, farmers, local residents, school groups – are all volunteers. Only a handful of individuals are paid for their work as Regional, Local and Project Coordinators and Administrative Support personnel.

The SEL 2026-2029 Strategic Plan has been informed by the action plans of the 14 District Landcare Networks in the South East region, SEL's 2025 LEP Mid-Term Review process and report, and the SEL Community of Practice Gathering held in November 2025.

[1] SEL is an entity within Landcare NSW, which is the peak body for community Landcare in NSW, representing the interests of tens of thousands of Landcarers across more than 3,000 Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, Dunecare, Rivercare and other 'care' groups. Landcare NSW pillars are: Member centred; Working better together; Position, profile and presence; and Strengthening capacity.

[2] <https://southeastlandcare.asn.au/district-landcare-networks/>



Context for Our Work

Landcare enables local-led action to address complex environmental and land management challenges that are often beyond the capacity of individuals to solve.

These challenges include climate change and compounding impacts of climate-driven disasters³; biodiversity loss; land degradation; funding volatility; volunteer fatigue; and declining volunteer participation.

Emerging challenges include the need to adapt to new technologies and data-driven monitoring methods; and increased urban expansion changing the landscape and the nature of Landcare.

It is within this critical context that the Landcare groups in the South East region work to implement activities across biodiversity, agriculture and climate that will have beneficial and ongoing impact and build community-led momentum and commitment.

[3] CSIRO State of the Climate Report 2024: <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/environmental-impacts/climate-change/state-of-the-climate>



Our First Nations Commitment

South East Landcare recognises that Aboriginal people are the original landcarers of Australia, and we are committed to engaging with local Aboriginal residents and communities. Districts engage with Aboriginal leaders and community members through consultation, advice, cultural knowledge workshops, leadership development and on-ground partnerships.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

South East Landcare is committed to fostering a culture that is safe, respectful, inclusive, equitable and diverse, where everyone feels included and is given the opportunity to thrive. This includes supporting staff and volunteers from diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to, gender identity, cultural background, race, disability, sexual orientation and age.



Our Vision

Our vision is for a South East Landcare region:



Which is resilient, adaptable and rich in biodiversity, has healthy air, water and soils, and supports ecosystems on both public and private land

Where Aboriginal communities are respected and valued, and where culture and knowledge sharing is fostered

Where communities are collaborating, sharing knowledge and experience, committed to volunteering, and where people are finding joy in their work

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to foster an engaged and connected network of Landcare groups, and to support their efforts through:

Advocacy, communications, information and resources

Securing funding for initiatives and projects which are shared across the network

Enabling their delivery of relevant and impactful activities over the long term and across all landscapes in the South East region

Our Values

People values

Member centred / community engaged and committed /
volunteer proud / recognition

Cultural values

Diversity / equity / inclusion / Aboriginal knowledge and
customs / generationally committed

Team values

Wellbeing / honesty / integrity / transparency /
enthusiasm

Nature positive values

Health / abundance / diversity / resilience of species
and ecosystems

Our Areas of Focus for On-Ground Activities, Projects and Partnerships



BIODIVERSITY

Threatened ecological communities / regeneration / weed and pest control / ecosystems / habitat connectivity / waterways / seed collection / growing local native plants

AGRICULTURE

Sustainable farming / regenerative grazing / productive landscapes / Holistic Management practices / rehydration

CLIMATE

Erosion control / climate-ready planting / agro-forestry / atmospheric carbon abatement and soil carbon sequestration

WELLBEING

Mental health benefits / physical health benefits / nurtured by nature / human connection and care

Our Strategic Priorities

1

VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS AND LANDCARE GROUPS

Maintain support for and acknowledge the value of volunteers, members and Landcare groups, the importance of wellbeing, and build their skills, capacity and shared knowledge

2

LOCAL & REGIONAL LANDCARE CO-ORDINATORS, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT OFFICERS AND ALL LANDCARE PROJECT STAFF

Provide support, care and connection, build capacity and capability, and increase knowledge and skills

3

ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

Build relationships and connections with Aboriginal groups and communities, and provide opportunities to encourage increased participation and partnerships

4

INFORMATION AND DATA COLLECTION

Collate and provide resources, information and expertise on key topics, region-wide initiatives and best-practice

5

REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

Represent and promote the interests of the South East District Landcare Networks, their activities and their achievements, and advocate for regional-wide strategies

6

PARTNERSHIPS

Facilitate collaborative partnerships in order to increase the ability and capacity of Landcarers to deliver on-ground initiatives and activities

7

RESOURCES

Build resources, human and financial, to expand the impact of Landcare activities

8

GOVERNANCE

Provide leadership, clarity of focus, effective management, energetic and achievable vision, accountability, document control, risk assessment and mitigation, and succession planning



Contact us

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