



# Landcare Notes

## Developing a Landcare project

**There are several factors you need to consider if you are going to develop and implement a project effectively.**

**Careful planning gives you a sense of the resources you will need to find to implement the project.**

**If you do plan well and everything goes according to plan, it gives the group the confidence that you are able to tackle other projects.**

### What project development is

No matter whether your project is big or small, one of the first things to consider before you start is whether it contributes to what your group wants to achieve in the longer term (see Landcare Note 2.2: Strategic Planning).

While you're developing a project you need to establish what you want it to achieve, the actions and resources necessary to make it happen and the time needed. You also need to think about how you will evaluate the project's success.

It's also worth considering the bigger picture of natural resource management and community group work in your area or catchment. How does your project fit with the aims of your local government authority, neighbouring Landcare groups and the Catchment Management Authority?

You are more likely to get support for the project if it is aligned with the priorities of others in your area.

When developing your project, consider the following:

- Vision – what's the long-term picture for your area?
- Aim – what is the reason for this specific project?

- Objectives – what measurable results do you want to achieve (e.g. fencing off and revegetating 5km of river bank over the next two years)?
- Actions – what needs to be done, how and when it needs to be done (e.g. 5000 trees planted and 2.5km fenced each year)?
- Resources and equipment – what funding, materials, skills and time is needed and where you will find them?
- Outcome and evaluation – what was the end result, what was learned (e.g. improved habitat, a cleaner river or raised awareness in the community)?

Once you have mapped out the project and what you will need to implement it, you can focus on the availability of resources, equipment and finance.

### How to do it

Before you get started, here are some important points to consider.

### Group involvement

No matter what size your project is, it will be more effective if it is planned carefully. The project will have more support if it fits within your group's long-term goals so talk it through with your members. Planning a project needs the active involvement of all your members, both in spirit and action.

Developing a project provides the group with a chance to draw on everyone's skills, knowledge, resources and time. It may also be worth talking to nearby groups about your ideas and asking for their feedback.

### Follow the guidelines

When you're developing a project, be aware of any legal implications including insurance you may need to protect members and volunteers (see Landcare Notes: 7.5 Personal Safety; 7.3 Insurance for Landcare Groups).



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You may need to get approvals from private and public land and water managers, local government and other bodies. Often, there are guidelines and restrictions to be considered (eg width of riparian strips), licenses that are needed and/or training for use of chemicals and equipment (see Landcare Note 7.6: Permits and Permissions in Victoria).

## Planning the project

You should consider appointing one of your members or setting up a small sub-committee to coordinate the project development and implementation. They can report back to the group as a whole along the way.

Projects take time to develop and may depend on seasonal factors, availability of funding, timing of grant applications and availability of specific resources (seedlings, contractors, etc), so make sure you have allowed plenty of time to ensure a successful outcome. Start planning well in advance, especially for deadlines for funding applications.

When developing your projects, draw on as much advice as you can – from government agencies and local government, as well as your members' experiences.

Research the cost and availability for some of the resources you need. This will help you plan your budget and make sure that your estimates are realistic.

Cast your net wide when you are looking for funding. Money may be available at federal, state, CMA and local government levels and, in some cases, from local businesses or philanthropic organisations (see Landcare Note 3.1: Funding Options for Community Groups).

## Helpful ideas

When projects are complex, the development phase can take time. Ask for help from a CMA facilitator/coordinator or others more experienced in this area.

Having a map of your group area and the project area is a useful starting point to have a record of where works will occur and help with

your estimates of area and other measurements.

Computer spreadsheet programs can help you record what's happening with your project finances and monitor the inputs and outputs. If there's a member of your group who is particularly skilled with computers, he or she could be a significant help in developing a system to ensure the finances are kept on track.

Once the project is supported by your group and looks like it will go ahead, information in other Landcare Notes: 5.1 Project Management; 5.4 Project Site Planning and Management may be useful.

## Further references

Victorian Landcare Gateway:  
[www.landcarevic.org.au](http://www.landcarevic.org.au)

Building Stronger Communities:  
[www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

Chamala, S and Mortis, P (1990) – *Working Together For Landcare* Department of Primary Industries, Queensland

Landcare coordinators in your region – contact your CMA or nearest DPI office

National Landcare Program Evaluation Coordinators (1997) - *Setting Up For Success – A Guide for Designing, Managing and Evaluating Projects*. available at Landcare

Planning and Managing Your Projects:  
[www.landcareonline.com/page.asp?sID=18](http://www.landcareonline.com/page.asp?sID=18)

## Related Landcare Notes

This Landcare Note is one of a series. These notes provide an excellent guide for the ongoing operation of your group.

Landcare Note 2.2: Strategic Planning

Landcare Note 3.1: Funding Options for Community Groups

Landcare Note 5.1: Project Management

Landcare Note 5.4: Project Site Planning and Management



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Landcare Note 5.3

Landcare Note 7.3: Insurance for Landcare Groups

Landcare Note 7.5: Personal Safety

Landcare Note 7.6: Permits and Permissions in Victoria

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