

Partnership Agreement

between the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority



Cardinia Shire Biodiversity Grant



Powerful Owl

Principles for working together

Shared responsibility. Each party brings a commitment towards creating and maintaining a healthy natural environment, strong communities and sustainable agriculture.

Mutual respect. Each party seeks to understand and respect each other's views, interests and constraints, and what the other can contribute in achieving desired NRM outcomes.

Communicating early and often. Setting priorities, designing projects and negotiating roles all need time. Each party participates in regular communications focussed on anticipating future opportunities and resolving current issues.

Solution-focussed. Each party brings their respective understanding of issues, requirements and opportunities of communities and policies and programs, and draws on their respective strengths to seek mutually beneficial solutions.

Giving feedback. Each party provides each other honest feedback on what is working and not working in the relationship, with the view to maintaining and improving the partnership.

Signed on Day XX Month 2017

Marijke deBever-Price
President
Western Port Catchment Landcare Network

Mariea Pacheco
Vice-President
Western Port Catchment Landcare Network

Tania Foster
Chair, Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

David Buntine
CEO, Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

This agreement can be reviewed upon request by either party to ensure it remains current, but is to be reviewed at a minimum of three years from the date of signing.



Farmers at a field day sharing knowledge and experiences about managing their soils for improved catchment health and productivity

A commitment to working together



Background

Landcare was born in Victoria in 1986 following the collaborative work of Heather Mitchell, President, VFF and Joan Kirner, Victorian Minister for Conservation and provided the platform for the Landcare movement we know today.

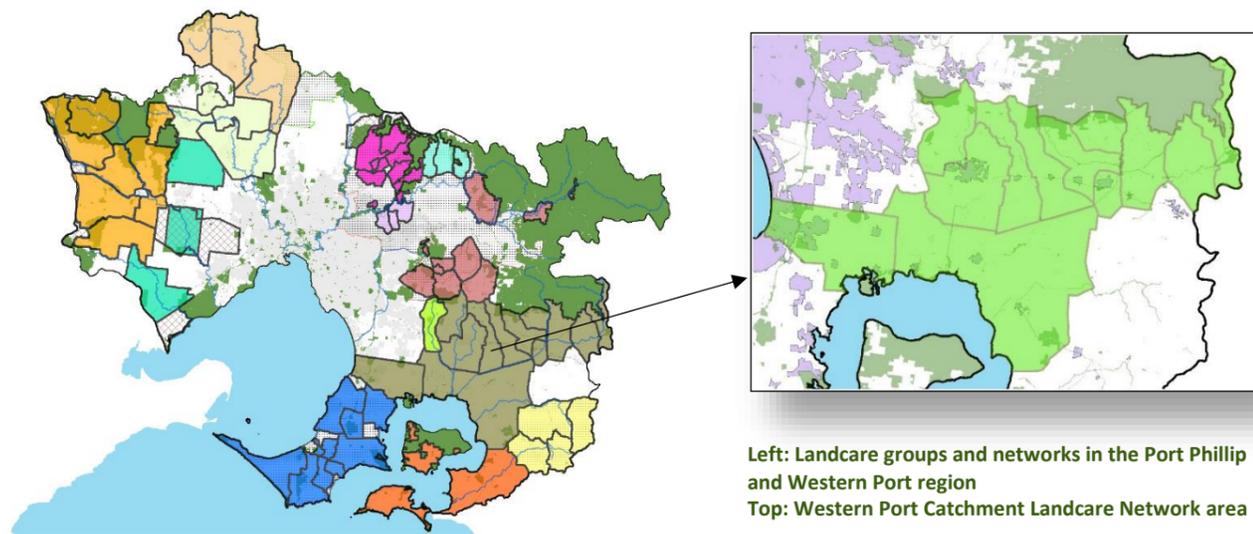
Landcare is a volunteer-based movement bringing local people and communities together to discuss shared land and natural resource management issues, and to design and implement practical solutions to take action to address these issues.

About the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network

Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN) was established in 1999 and incorporated in 2012. It comprises 11 groups and covers an area of 152,598 hectares with natural, rural, semi-rural, peri-urban and urban landscapes. WPCLN aims to preserve, protect and enhance the Western Port catchment by working with Landcare groups, individual landholders, government agencies and local businesses to achieve improved environmental and sustainable agricultural outcomes.

The WPCLN facilitates landholder education, knowledge sharing and behaviour change through field days, planting days, trials and workshops to support landholders to revegetate areas to increase biodiversity, protect waterways and adopt sustainable land management practices.

(Western Port Catchment Landcare Network Strategic Plan (draft 2017))



Left: Landcare groups and networks in the Port Phillip and Western Port region
Top: Western Port Catchment Landcare Network area

About the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA (PPWCMA)

The Port Phillip and Western Port region covers 1.3 million hectares, 695,000 of which is privately-owned rural land. Across the region there are 85 Landcare groups with an average of 55 member per group. They have formed 13 Landcare networks, covering 83 per cent of all private rural land.

The PPWCMA's objectives include

- Coordinating implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources
- Advising on regional priorities, resource allocation, and the condition of land and water resources
- Promoting community awareness and understanding of land and water resources
- Supporting the Landcare movement
- Coordinating delivery of relevant Victorian and Australian Government grants

(PPWCMA Landcare Support Plan (2013), 2015-16 PPW Landcare Report Card, 2017-18 PPWCMA Corporate Plan)

Shared objective

A regional Landcare community that is strong, capable, focussed and effective, collaborating for mutual benefit with the PPWCMA and other NRM agencies in management of the region's natural resources.

Purpose of the agreement

This agreement provides a framework for an ongoing collaborative and productive relationship to optimise our shared capacity to protect and improve the natural resources we share.

Our commitment to working together

Western Port Catchment Landcare Network will:

- Provide leadership, capacity building support and strategic direction for its member groups and local community
- Provide a representative voice for Landcare, natural values and sustainable agriculture in their Network area at local, regional, state and national levels
- Advocate for ongoing investment for Landcare, including through the regional model, to build capacity and contribute effectively to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture
- Represent WPCLN goals, priorities and perspectives in regional scale NRM planning opportunities (e.g. RCS target setting and prospectus development) and promoting the Landcare brand
- Incorporate relevant RCS targets and priorities into network-scale planning, and pursue locally relevant and beneficial contributions to implementation of the RCS
- Provide statement(s) of commitment to pursue local contributions to RCS targets for publication in the RCS
- Actively participate in the regular regional forums for Landcare Network Leaders and for Landcare Facilitators convened by the PPWCMA
- Actively participate in annual meetings convened by the PPWCMA for senior representatives from both parties to share plans, issues and opportunities of mutual interest
- Publicly support and promote the WPCLN-PPWCMA relationship

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA will:

- Provide leadership, capacity building support and strategic direction for Landcare in the Port Phillip and Western Port region, guided by the PPWCMA Landcare Support Plan (2013)
- Represent the common interests of Landcare in Port Phillip and Western Port region at regional, state and national levels
- Advocate for ongoing investment for Landcare through the regional model to build capacity and contribute effectively to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture
- Provide meaningful opportunities for the WPCLN to contribute to regional scale NRM planning that can reflect WPCLN goals and priorities, and provide strategic guidance to the WPCLN
- Coordinate Landcare grants available to the WPCLN and others to support on-ground RCS implementation
- Convene regular regional forums for Landcare Network Leaders and for Landcare Facilitators, with participant-driven agendas
- Convene annual meetings for senior representatives from both parties to share plans, issues and opportunities of mutual interest
- Publicly support and promote the WPCLN-PPWCMA relationship