



The National Landcare Facilitator

Newsletter – November/December 2011

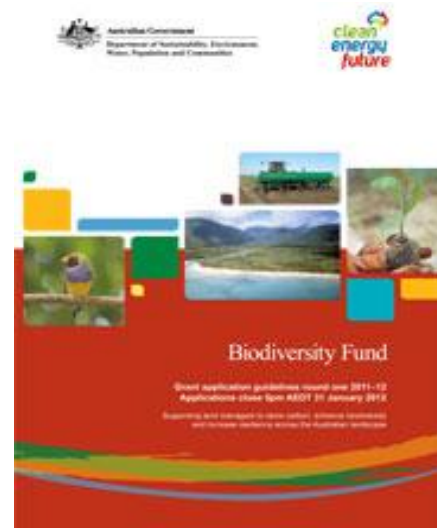
Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Biodiversity Fund Open for Farmers & Other Land Managers

This is the first step in delivering more than \$946 million over the next six years to help Australia's farmers and other land managers increase carbon storage and enhance biodiversity on the land.

Minister Tony Burke said at the launch of the Biodiversity Fund last week "Across Australia, farmers and other land managers already do a great job through Landcare work and the Biodiversity Fund will build on this work".

Under the first round of the Biodiversity Fund, more than \$30 million will be allocated to activities this financial year to help farmers and other land managers to store carbon, enhance biodiversity and increase resilience across the Australian landscape.



The Biodiversity Fund will facilitate investment in three main areas:

Biodiverse plantings: Funding will help farmers and other land managers expand native habitat on their property through planting mixed vegetation species appropriate to their region. This will help build landscape resilience and connectivity.

Protecting and enhancing existing native vegetation: Funding will support farmers and other land managers to protect, manage and enhance high conservation value native vegetation on their land for its carbon storage and biodiversity benefits.

Managing threats to biodiversity: Funding will support farmers and other land managers to control the threat of invasive pests and weeds.

For more information about the Biodiversity Fund or to access the program guidelines, visit www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture. or call the information line on 1800 008 678.

Applications close 5pm AEDT Tuesday 31 January 2012.

Carbon Farming Demonstration Grants – Action on the Ground

\$99 million over 4 years in Action on the Ground funding (part of the Clean Energy Futures Program) has been announced by the Federal Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig. This funding program is designed to enable on-farm trials and demonstration of practices and abatement technologies to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase carbon stored in soil.

This will be achieved by supporting landholders, research, industry, non-government, government and farmer 'care' 'grower' groups/organisations trial and demonstrate on-farm management practices and technologies that can reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions (such as methane and nitrous oxide) and/or increase carbon stored in soil.

The first funding round of competitive grants will commit up to \$25 million between now and 2015. The program is a part of the Carbon Farming Futures Fund under the government's \$1.7 billion Land Sector Package. Funding can be used to help reduce methane emissions from farmed animals and their waste; improve fertiliser use to reduce nitrous oxide emissions; and the planting and rotation of crops and grazing practices to reduce emissions from soils or increase carbon stored in soil.

Grants up to a maximum of \$605,000 (inc GST) are available over the four years to June 2015, with funding of between \$55,000 and \$385,000 (inc GST) available in 2011-12. For more information: www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/action-on-the-ground or call 1800 025 005. www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/carbonfarmingfutures/action-on-the-ground.

Applications close 8th February 2012.

Call for Funding Applications 2012/13 CfoC Business Plan



The Federal Government is seeking applications for grants for natural resource management and sustainable agriculture projects that address the Business Plan targets and can be completed by June 2013.

Funding of \$64 million is available under this business plan for projects in the 2012/13 financial year. For more information go to: www.nrm.gov.au. Or by calling 1800 552 008.

Applications Close 9th February 2012.

Biochar Research Funding

\$2 million in funding for competitive grants for biochar research has been announced by the Federal Agriculture Minister under the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). The grants will fund the research that is needed to investigate how biochars can reduce carbon emissions, and to support the development of biochar offset methodologies. Minister Ludwig said the Biochar Capacity Building Program will help attract further research from scientists and independent experts and significantly expand knowledge of biochar and identify potential opportunities for landholders. The Biochar Capacity Building Program is one of several government programs that support new research, on-the-ground testing and demonstration of biochar in agriculture and forestry. For more information go to: www.daff.gov.au/climatechange/cfi/biochar.

Applications close 3rd February.

2011 State of the Environment Report Released



The fourth national assessment of the state of Australia's environment has been released by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke. For the first time in national environmental reporting, *Australia State of the Environment 2011* goes beyond a descriptive summary of evidence to include graded 'report-card' style assessments of environment condition and trends, pressures and management effectiveness.

It also includes discussions of the drivers of environmental change, resilience, risks, and future projections or 'outlooks'. Written by an independent committee of experts, the report covers nine aspects of the Australian environment – atmosphere, inland water, land, marine environment, Antarctic environment, biodiversity, heritage, built environment and coasts. *Australia State of the Environment 2011* is available online, along with a range of additional material, at www.environment.gov.au/soe

Community Action Grants Announced & New Round Due Early 2012

Last Month Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig announced \$7 million in Community Action Grants as part of the Caring for our Country initiative.

The 2011-12 Community Action Grants funding includes:

- 109 projects in New South Wales
- 85 projects in Queensland
- 90 projects in Victoria
- 41 projects in Western Australia
- 16 projects in South Australia
- 7 projects in Northern Territory

- 17 projects in Tasmania

For more information go to www.nrm.gov.au.

Also in the recently released CfoC 2012-13 Business Plan \$5m has been budgeted for Community Action Grants and the applications for these are expected to open early in 2012.

Victorian Announcement – 60 New Landcare Facilitator Positions

Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith has announced the 60 organisations that will receive funding for a Landcare facilitator position under the Victorian Coalition Government's \$12 million Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative.

This four-year investment will enable 60 Landcare groups and networks to start recruiting facilitators. Successful organisations will be given a fixed grant of up to \$50,000 a year towards funding the facilitator positions. For more information go to: www.landcarevic.net.au.

Register your group on LAL site

Your Landcare group is important to your community and to your local environment. It is also important in the bigger picture. This is the national story of the Landcare movement; of communities working together across Australia to improve the environment.

The role of Landcare Australia Ltd (LAL) is to promote Landcare and seek corporate involvement and support. Registering your group's details on the National Landcare Directory (NLD) and telling your story contributes to this big picture. It enables LAL to include your group in their work of connecting volunteer projects with potential corporate support and sponsorship. By putting your group on the map, LAL can assist with connecting you with volunteers new to your area and to other groups with similar interests, projects and goals.

Registering on the NLD is also the first step in applying for grants managed by LAL Australia. Once registered you become a member of the NLD and can then login at any time to submit grant reports, promote an event and publish stories about your group's projects and achievements.

Once you have registered on the NLD you become a member of the Landcare portal. You can login at any time and make further contributions to the National Landcare story. For more information go to: <http://landcareonline.com.au/lal3/registration.aspx> or call LAL on 1800 151 105.

Regional Landcare Facilitator Meeting

In November, Regional Landcare Facilitators (funded under CfoC) from each of the 56 NRM regions across the country gathered in Melbourne to share ideas and obtain briefings on Federal Government programs such as the Carbon Farming Initiative, Biodiversity Fund and

Action on the Ground Grants. The RLF's also focused on how to help highlight the valuable work done by Landcare across the country through "telling the stories of Landcare" and what role social media may have in this. A number of Landcare groups and RLF's have already been active in the social media space and a new initiative involving the RLF's will be featured in January. A great background clip on social media can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SuNx0UrnEo>.

For the contact details for the RLF in your region go to: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/contacts/landcare.html#regional>.



CfoC Funded Regional Landcare Facilitators from the 56 NRM regions across Australian in Melbourne in November.

Other Funding Opportunities

Coles Junior Landcare Grants - 101 schools around Australia will receive grants of up to \$1000 from round 3 to assist with the development of various garden projects, not only educating children about fresh fruit and vegetables, but also the importance of looking after the environment.



Schools, kindergartens, day care centres and youth groups looking to start their own garden program can apply for a Coles Junior Landcare garden grant by registering with Junior Landcare. Visit www.juniorlandcare.com.au or www.coles.com.au. 2012 Grants are now open.

2012 Closing dates:

- **Round 1:** Closes Friday 17th February, 5pm (EST)
- **Round 2:** Closes Friday 4th May, 5pm (EST)
- **Round 3:** Closes Friday 27th July, 5pm (EST)

Aussie Farmers Foundation Grants - Funding between \$10,000 and \$50,000 is available for projects which make a difference to the health and wellbeing of rural and regional communities throughout Australia. Applications close 3 February 2012 and further information is available at www.aussiefarmersfoundation.org.au. Eligible organisations must have Deductible Gift Recipient status.

Farm Ready Grants re-open – The program re-opened on 1 July 2011 and changes will be introduced to extend the availability of funds and make the program accessible to more primary producers. Each primary producer can still claim up to a maximum \$1500 each financial year, with funding up to \$500 also available to assist with travel, accommodation and child care expenses. The arrangements for indigenous land managers will not change and they will be eligible for a 100% reimbursement of the cost of approved training courses up to the maximum of \$1500 annually. For further information about FarmReady visit: www.daff.gov.au/farmready.

State Landcare Conferences & Other Dates

Landcare in Action: National Landcare & Catchment Management Conference 2012 - NZ Landcare Trust will host a 2-day conference starting 29th February 2012 at the Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato Campus, Hamilton, New Zealand. The event will celebrate the work of numerous Landcare Groups from all around New Zealand and provide an opportunity to explore the role that communities play in sustainable land and water management. The conference will include keynote and workshop sessions, Landcare Group presentations, a celebration meal, and optional field trips. Register before January 2012 and take advantage of the early bird discount. For more information go to: <http://www.landcare.org.nz/Conference/Conference-Programme>.

Items for NLF Newsletter – If you have any events or items you would like included in the NLF Newsletter, please email them to me at the email address below.

To sign up for the NLF newsletter go to: <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/about/the-national-landcare-facilitator/nlf-e-newsletter/>

Regards,

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CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

The National Landcare Facilitator Project is funded by the Federal Government