

MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND
MURRAY-
DARLING
COMMITTEE



Harnessing Landcare to build communities

The importance of supporting the members of grassroots organisations and their work to improve their communities was stressed to attendees of last week's National Local Government Environment Conference on the Gold Coast.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Regional Landcare Facilitator Cassandra Grunberger told attendees from across Australia how the Landcare community could help local government progress environmental goals.

"Landcare began 21 years ago and is now widely seen as an Australian success story," Ms Grunberger said.

"Landcare has mobilised a large cross-section of the rural population, provided opportunities for group members to learn by doing through peer interaction, enhanced social cohesion, increased the capacity of rural communities and better equipped them to respond to change."

Ms Grunberger said the opportunity Landcare offered to local government was as both a community leader and as a landholder.

"Landcare offers an opportunity for targeted, on-ground change in the management and condition of natural resources, both on public land and on private property," she said.

"It also provides a chance for true engagement with many sectors of the community through a network that is already highly motivated, highly informed and above all, highly dedicated to creating lasting, positive change."

Ms Grunberger said involvement in Landcare offered local governments the chance to coordinate activities such as erosion mitigation, pest and weed control and cultural site management with other landholders for the best possible environmental outcome.

"What better way to make a difference than to start with those who make every day decision that impact on our environment – all of our landholders, users of our resources, decision makers working together," she said.

"The ethos, the structure, the fundamental backbones of Landcare provide the perfect solution for reversing environmental degradation, providing a strong platform on which to base measures for climate adaptation and underpinning all of that, ensuring our rural and regional communities have strong social foundations and support networks in place."

The 2nd National Local Government Environment Conference was held on the Gold Coast from November 10-12.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee is a natural resource management organisation that supports communities within the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to sustainably manage their natural resources. Visit www.qmdc.org.au for more information.

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