

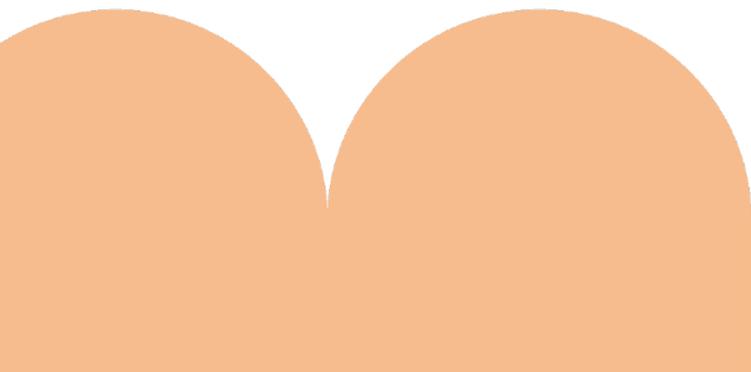


# Landcare Victoria Landcare Plan for Victoria - Engagement Findings Report

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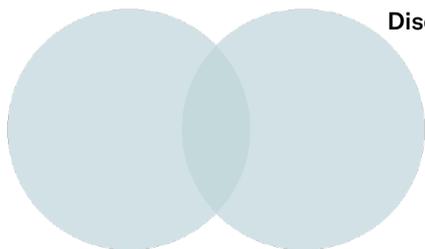
17 June 2022





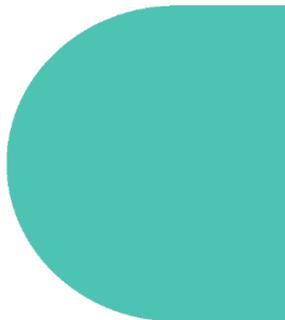
Landcare Plan for Victoria - Engagement Findings Report

**Prepared for** Landcare Victoria  
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*ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

*Landcare Victoria and Projectura pay our respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands in Victoria.*

*We take inspiration from the legacy of Victorian Aboriginal people, who have produced food while caring for the ecological systems that life depends upon, for tens of thousands of years.*

## **This report summarises the results of the community and stakeholder engagement undertaken between February and May 2022, to inform the development of a plan for community landcare in Victoria.**

The engagement sought to capture the views of the Victorian landcare community, as well as stakeholders who work with landcare, to better understand the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and aspirations for landcare in Victoria.

In 2022 Landcare Victoria, the representative body for landcare in Victoria, commenced a process to prepare a State-wide plan for Victorian landcare (the Landcare Plan). With the aim of creating a blueprint for the growth and development of the landcare movement in Victoria. Landcare Victoria intends that the Landcare Plan will define and aggregate the aspirations and visions of groups and communities across the State to create a long-term plan for the future of landcare.

As the first stage of the Plan's development, Landcare Victoria appointed Projectura a consultancy, to conduct an extensive engagement process, funded by the Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The findings of this engagement are detailed in this report.

Engagement with the landcare community and stakeholders who work with Landcare occurred between February and May 2022. 102 individuals participated in workshops and interviews and 211 individuals participated in an online survey.

Engagement participants were asked a range of questions that explored the strengths, challenges, opportunities, priorities, and aspirations of the landcare community.

Throughout the engagement process, the passionate, dedicated, and independent voice of the landcare community was heard. They provided their insights into the value that landcare offers within Victoria and contributed to a better understanding of what is important for landcare going forward.

The engagement also captured the challenges and barriers that are faced by the landcare community, including sustainable funding, difficulties growing their membership base and the challenges associated with creating a clear brand and shared purpose for landcare.

Many opportunities were identified for the future of landcare in Victoria, these included united action on climate change and biodiversity decline, the delivery of community education and opportunities to improve existing and create new partnerships.

Using the engagement findings, a set of key recommendations have been identified, for consideration during the development and subsequent implementation of a Landcare Plan for Victoria. The 15 recommendations are focused on five key areas including:

**Raise the profile of landcare** through the creation and promotion of a clear value proposition for landcare, understanding and communicating the impact of landcare and improving the brand clarity of the program.

**Advocate for landcare** including communication around key funding, policy and project design issues and opportunities.

**Increase funding** which includes creating a project prospectus of large-scale state-wide programs that could be delivered locally by groups and networks, communicating the importance of the landcare facilitator funding and building trusted partnerships with government partners and political representatives.

**Build the capacity of landcare** including supporting groups to increase participation and building capacity around administrative and governance issues and scientific knowledge.

**Traditional Owner partnerships** including seeking funding to partner with Traditional Owners at the local level to deliver cultural management and awareness training sessions and promoting available Indigenous works crews across the State.

**Community landcare in Victoria has a long and productive history, with the first ever Landcare group created at Winjallok near St Arnaud in 1986. There are now over 540 landcare groups and networks in Victoria, with membership from an estimated 18,610 households.<sup>1</sup> These voluntary community groups invest more than \$20 million in landcare activities and engage with over 12,000 non-member volunteers across the state each year.<sup>1</sup>**

To continue to build on the strength of community landcare, Landcare Victoria, the representative body for landcare in Victoria, has commenced a process to prepare a State-wide plan for Victorian landcare (the Landcare Plan). The aim is to create a blueprint for the growth and development of the landcare movement in Victoria. The Landcare Plan will define and aggregate the aspirations and visions of groups and communities across the State to create a long-term plan for the future of landcare.

As the first stage of the Plan's development, Landcare Victoria appointed Projectura a consultancy, to conduct an extensive engagement process, funded by the Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The findings of this engagement are detailed in this report.

**Please note:** the term 'community landcare' is used throughout the report. For this report 'community landcare' means any volunteer-based group who are insured by Landcare Victoria. This may include landcare and friends' groups.

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<sup>1</sup> Landcare Victoria Inc. 2022 Annual Report.

## Engagement occurred between February and May 2022. 102 individuals participated in workshops and interviews and 211 individuals participated in an online survey.

Of the online survey participants 181 (86%) were landcare group/network or friends group members. Further information on the demographics of survey participants can be found in Appendix 1.

Engagement participants were asked a range of questions that explored the strengths, challenges, opportunities, priorities, and aspirations of the landcare community. This qualitative data was then sorted and analysed to understand the common themes and issues which are documented in the following chapters.

Using the engagement findings, a set of key recommendations have been identified, for consideration during the development of a Landcare Plan for Victoria.

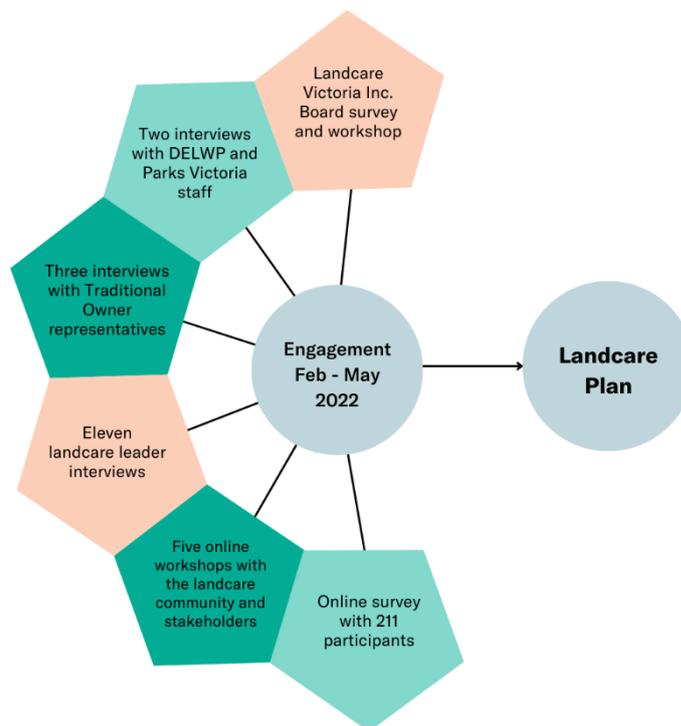


Figure 1: Engagement undertaken

## Strengths

To further understand strengths of community landcare, engagement participants were asked to describe the strengths of the movement, as well as key features of the landcare movement that they would fight to retain.

The top five strength themes, that were mentioned most during the engagement, are described below. Key quotes from engagement participants about strengths and the number of times the theme was raised throughout the consultation is also provided.

### On-ground action and landscape scale change (n.229)

Participants described the many on-ground activities that landcare delivers, as well as the physical evidence of landscape scale change that are a result of these activities. They also described influencing changes in land management practices, mitigating climate change and the ability of landcare to respond to natural disasters as strengths.

*'We do remarkable environmental work.'*

*'Enabling and facilitating a positive and informed community and landscape environmental action.'*

*'Landscape scale priorities to address climate change.'*

*'Breadth of work landcare does for sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, farming advice, production etc.'*

### Local people, knowledge, and priorities (n.180)

That the movement is grass-roots, identifies local priorities, and independently make decisions were conveyed as key strengths. Local knowledge, expertise, drive, and ownership were also highlighted.

*'Developing local solutions to local issues and priorities that change with seasons, climate and disasters.'*

*'Community landcare belonging to and being driven by local communities – not government, not DELWP, not Landcare Victoria.'*

*'Knowledge, expertise and action from the ground up.'*

### Community leadership, empowerment, and learning (n.141)

Participants spoke of the leadership that the landcare community provides around land management and helping others, including government to understand local issues. Empowering others to take 'landcare' action and sharing knowledge or providing education were also put forward as strengths.

*'Members who are innovators and early adopters of sustainable land management.'*

*'People support each other through mentoring and peer groups to build sustainable landscapes.'*

*'Network of passionate, concerned, knowledgeable and experienced people who aspire to restore landscape health.'*

### Mix of agriculture and environment (n.102)

The strength of connecting environmental and agricultural outcomes was commonly raised.

*'Maintaining the passion and engagement of the private landholder community in terms of addressing environmental issues whilst balancing healthy and profitable farming enterprises.'*

*'Collaboration between the farmers and the greenies.'*

*'There is a focus on the overall environment, including farming.'*

### Funded facilitators (n.95)

Facilitators funded through DELWP, was raised as a key enabler that provides strength to community landcare. Participants spoke of the support these positions provided to groups including funding attraction, promotion, technical knowledge, and administrative support, which would be difficult to achieve with a purely volunteer based group.

*'Funded facilitators - they are the oil that helps keep the car on the road.'*

*'Paid support for volunteers, as we can't do it without some funded staff.'*

*'Definitely funded facilitators, local communities need help coordinating (because they have day jobs too!).'*

### Other strengths

Other strengths raised throughout the engagement included:

- Volunteer time and commitment
- The landcare brand and history of landcare
- Bringing communities together and contributing to community health and wellbeing
- Government and non-government support and partnerships, including funding and Landcare Victoria support.

## Challenges and barriers

Engagement participants were asked to reflect on key challenges for community landcare and barriers which prevent the movement from increasing its influence, impact, and partnerships. The top five challenge and barrier themes are described below along with key quotes from engagement participants. The number of times the theme was raised throughout the consultation is also provided.

### Funding and resources (n.111)

Concerns included low funding for staff, lack of Australian government support, short term funding and government funding priorities not aligning with local priorities. There was a recognition that landcare in Victoria is very reliant on State government funding and that there is no guarantee that it will continue into the future. The challenge of attracting significant investment at the individual groups or network scale was also raised.

*'Landcare is one of the longest and most consistently funded programs on both sides of government, but there are no guarantees. There are always competing priorities.'*

*'It is difficult, there is no one landcare model and no consistency in capacity or interests. How do you turn that into a steady stream of funding?'*

*'Don't take government support for granted. The community and environment sector has changed e.g., landcare are competing with community energy groups.'*

### Community engagement and membership (n.106)

Efforts to increase membership and community engagement in landcare was identified as challenging, with low member numbers reported to be causing burnout of key volunteers. The need to engage youth, new landholders, retirees, and corporate agriculture in landcare was commonly raised. The age profile of existing members was also raised a key risk throughout the consultation.

*'There is a lot of competition for volunteer time and effort within communities.'*

*'It is becoming a crowded space. There are different volunteer groups and agencies moving in and lots of people claiming local connection.'*

*'The environmental volunteering sector is at great risk if we don't think about how to pass on knowledge in the next 10 years.'*

### Brand, recognition and shared purpose (n. 76)

A common concern emerged around the role and value of landcare not being well articulated, measured or communicated. Aligned with this were concerns that landcare lacks common goals, priorities, and messaging. Participants spoke of competition for the landcare brand and perceptions that the movement is tired and old with a lack of relevance to the next generation and agricultural sector.

*'I don't think people generally know what the role of landcare is.'*

*'Landcare has a clouded brand.'*

*'The question needs to be asked – What is the aim of landcare? What is the outcome? Is it for environmental improvement or social outcomes?'*

### Building the capacity of landcare (n. 50)

A range of operational challenges for landcare groups and networks were raised. These included internal governance, staff management, safety standards and conflict resolution. Concerns that knowledge, best practice, and scientific information are not being shared were also raised.

*'We find small groups don't have adequate safety or governance in place.'*

*'We don't share and build up our social knowledge beyond landcare network level.'*

*'Remaining current and implementing best practice and up to date scientific knowledge is challenging.'*

## Relationships and support from government and non-government (n. 49)

During the engagement it became evident that while landcare feel undervalued by government, government feel that the contribution that they make to Victorian landcare is not acknowledged or recognised by groups. Having connections to higher levels of government in an effort to maintain bi-partisan support was also raised.

*'Government don't want to work through the many levels to get to the people on the ground.'*

*'I don't feel like we are respected as a partner, show us the money is the kind of feeling we get.'*

*'Landcare Victoria doesn't have a good conduit or access to high levels of government.'*

## Other challenges and barriers

Other challenges and barriers raised during the engagement included:

- Environmental challenges such as climate change, pest plant and animal management, biosecurity, and biodiversity loss
- A lack of political action to address environmental challenges and to support landcare
- Integrating Traditional Owner voice, priorities, and aspirations into the work of landcare
- Red tape, compliance and administrative burden on volunteers and groups.

## Role of community landcare

During the engagement workshops, issues around Landcare's brand, recognition and lack of shared purpose was a common theme raised by participants. As a result, questions around the role of community landcare were built into the [online](#) survey.

Survey participants were asked if they agreed with the statement *'The role of community landcare in Victoria is well defined.'* 51% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed, while 18% disagreed or strongly disagreed and 31% were neutral.

When asked to describe the role of community landcare, there were a variety of responses including:

- Providing advice to landholders and government
- Connecting communities and individuals
- Community led action
- Working in partnership with government
- Community education and awareness
- Landscape-scale restoration
- Land management and conservation outcomes
- Mobilising people to connect with the environment
- Sustainable and productive agriculture
- Biodiversity and conservation action
- Promoting sustainability
- Addressing climate change
- Revegetation
- Property by property action
- Identification of shared local issues to act upon
- Lobbying/advocating for the environment

Having local priorities and being able to make local decisions is one of the top strengths of community landcare identified in this engagement. It is therefore not surprising that when asked about the role of landcare the responses were diverse. However, the diversity of responses does highlight the challenges of defining and communicating the role of landcare to other stakeholders and partners in a compelling way.

## Opportunities and priorities

Current and emerging opportunities and priorities for community landcare in the next 10 years were explored with engagement participants.

For the purpose of this report priorities and opportunities have been analysed together due to content similarities.

The top six opportunity and priority themes are described below along with key quotes from engagement participants. The number of times the theme was raised as an opportunity throughout the consultation is also provided.

### Climate adaptation and mitigation (n. 241)

Many opportunities that were identified were associated with climate change. For the farming community this included support to measure carbon footprints or sequestration capacity and capacity building around adaptation. Other opportunities raised included planning for climate adaptive landcare works and large-scale revegetation for sequestration.

*'We need an integrated approach to climate adaptive revegetation.'*

*'Farmers at all levels will be coming together to try and understand how to best respond to changes.'*

*'Massive plantings of trees and understory; This is still the best way to sequester carbon dioxide.'*

### Community education and extension (n.208)

A range of opportunities around community education and extension were raised. Some focussed on the education and extension that the landcare community could provide to the community through schools, landholder extension, mentoring, field days and potentially offering formal conservation training. While other participants highlighted the need for capacity building within landcare around best practice, new research, and technological tools. Gaps in government provided extension services for the community were also highlighted.

*'Helping landholders to understand ecological literacy and access research.'*

*'Landcare needs to demonstrate its relevance more by providing support services and education that landholders need.'*

*'Educating the community about the importance of caring for the natural environment.'*

## Funding and policy (n.163)

Advocating to government and politicians around policy changes, landcare funding and to influence program design were commonly raised, for implementation at both State and Federal levels. The opportunity to increase or improve partnerships with large corporates, Catchment Management Authorities, Trust for Nature, Greening Australia, Bush Heritage, and philanthropic organisations was commonly mentioned. One participant also suggested that establishing a will and bequest program at Landcare Victoria through deductible gift recipient status should occur. Some participants spoke of looking beyond government funding to reduce the associated administrative burden on landcare.

*'Need a national voice, we need to utilise national bodies to advocate on program design. The time for the National Landcare Program is now.'*

*'Use Landcare Victoria to get large corporates on board and government funding to keep landcare going.'*

*'It is essential that facilitators are funded.'*

*'We need to advocate for more paid coordination. One hour of paid facilitator delivers 4-8 times worth of volunteer work.'*

## Improving branding, recognition and demonstration of outcomes (n.148)

The need to improve the recognition and understanding of the outcomes that landcare delivers was commonly raised. Improving the measurement and communication of these outcomes was also put forward as a priority. Clarifying the landcare brand through a clear value proposition and by advocating that other programs without a community base, should not call themselves landcare was also raised.

*'Good marketing would enable us to build our profile and to form partnerships at scale.'*

*'Create and share a strong value proposition. Why should people step away from their home life and contribute?'*

*'Demonstrating the value and achievements of landcare to government at all levels.'*

*'There is a job for government to articulate the benefits of better reporting. We need to help people to understand that we need data to secure future support.'*

## Biodiversity action (n.159)

Opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity were raised including revegetation on public and private land, protection of threatened species, on-farm biodiversity action and increasing native garden plantings.

*'Consolidate biodiversity corridors across the state.'*

*'Enable landholders to act on biodiversity decline at a property scale.'*

## Other opportunities and priorities

Many other priorities were raised during the consultation that didn't make the top six, but still present opportunities for landcare in Victoria. These included:

- Increasing community participation in landcare
- Supporting sustainable agriculture including soil health, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable agriculture supply chains
- Communicating the social and wellbeing benefits of landcare
- Traditional Owner relationships and partnerships
- Improving government partnerships and increasing non-government partnerships
- Other environmental action such as pest plants and animals, litter, riparian, and water quality works
- Supporting disaster preparedness and recovery
- Supporting entry into ecosystem services markets.

## Shared priorities

In the online survey, participants were asked *'If there was one program/initiative or direction that the community landcare movement in Victoria could unite around over the next 10 years, what would it be?'*

Aligned with the data from the opportunities and priorities questions, activities associated with climate change adaptation and mitigation were most commonly raised as initiatives that could unify landcare. 32% (n.68) of respondents provided answers connected to climate change initiatives.

The second highest area that respondents listed as an initiative which would unite landcare was biodiversity action, with 20% of respondents (n.42) listing activities around this theme.

## Traditional Owner engagement

Throughout the engagement with stakeholders and the landcare community, improving relationships, establishing partnerships, and learning from Traditional Owners was regularly raised.

Three interviews were conducted with Traditional Owner representatives from Gunai Kurnai Land and Waters Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation and Barapa Land and Water as part of the engagement. Gunai Kurnai and Dja Dja Wurrung are both registered aboriginal parties. Barapa Land and Water had started as an Indigenous landcare group, that worked so well it turned into a business, they now employ 20 people.

During these interviews the representatives were asked about barriers and opportunities to working with landcare.

### Barriers

Barriers raised throughout the interviews about landcare and Traditional Owners working together included:

- Traditional Owner groups are focussed on providing employment opportunities for their people. If projects can provide employment or funding, there are fewer barriers.
- Traditional Owners are often not in the financial position to volunteer. *'Volunteering is hard for people at the lower end of income spectrum.'*
- There are views within the Traditional Owner community that *'We shouldn't be coming to fix up the mess that people have made of our Country.'*
- Cultural safety concerns exist, including that landcare doesn't have many Indigenous people in the groups and therefore Traditional Owners may feel uncomfortable getting involved.
- Many landcare projects are not big or varied enough to be of interest to some Traditional Owner works crews. Gunai Kurnai explained that they are looking for big projects with varied tasks, rather than just tree planting.
- In some cases, Traditional Owner groups and landcare are competing for the same pool of funds.
- For Barapa Land and Water, who are not a registered aboriginal party, having the community recognise their group as a way to connect and partner with Traditional Owners and employ their works crew was a barrier.
- A perception that new people are not invited into landcare.

### Opportunities

Opportunities for landcare to employ Indigenous works crews in the delivery of projects was raised, although some of the barriers above need to be considered. There is an opportunity to create a list of Indigenous works crews across the State for landcare to access.

Two representatives put forward that the biggest opportunity is for landcare is to partner with Traditional Owners to educate the community. They raised opportunities to increase awareness of cultural land management practices such as putting fire in the landscape and cultural thinning. Opportunities to change community perspectives around Indigenous people and help to reduce discrimination in rural areas was also raised.

## A vision for community landcare

Engagement participants were asked to *'Imagine it is 2032, the Victorian Landcare Plan has been successfully implemented and landcare in Victoria is thriving. Describe what landcare in Victoria would be like.'*

Common words and themes communicated include:

- Recognised
- Addressing environmental challenges
- Adapting to climate
- Active groups and networks
- Collaboration
- Well-funded
- Seen as trusted partner
- Partnerships
- Diverse membership
- Sustainable agriculture
- Pests controlled
- Connected to community
- Funded facilitation
- Traditional Owner partnerships
- Growing membership base
- Funding for local priorities
- Healthy communities
- New generation leading
- Influential
- Transforming landscapes
- Local action
- Urban and rural
- Equal partners
- Supported
- Educating
- Valued volunteers

Some examples of vision statements provided include:

*'A strongly community connected network that fosters and supports an enriched landscape of sustainable food production and thriving biodiversity.'*

*'A high profile, well resourced, educated, respected body which is successful in assisting the committed community to protect and enhance the environment and farm sustainably.'*

*'Local volunteers delivering local catchment restoration, thereby reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, controlling weeds, improving biodiversity and demonstrating sustainable farming practices.'*

*'Diverse, covering all age groups and ethnicities, working together on environmental issues and sustainable farming.'*

*'A well-respected community organisation with adequate funding for environmental restoration and protection.'*

*'A vibrant, energetic and vital group protecting our landscape.'*

*'Robust, well-funded community-based networks delivering on strategic goals that protect the natural environment and support healthy urban and rural communities.'*

*'Multi hundreds of thousands of volunteers, actively supported by well-paid facilitators and ground crews. Local communities and farmers transforming landscapes and growing and selling food locally.'*

*'Landcare will be everywhere.... it'll be in backyards, in towns, on hobby farms, on big farms....it will be the norm, not just what the green farmers are a part of.'*

*'Fully funded, huge community involvement, trees going in everywhere, communities proud of their environmental impact!!'*

## Engagement finding recommendations

Using the engagement findings, a set of key recommendations have been identified, for consideration during the development and subsequent implementation of a Landcare Plan for Victoria

### Raise the profile of landcare

1. Create and promote a set of clear, concise key messages (value proposition) around role and value of landcare, to provide clarity on what landcare can deliver and why people should engage.
2. Develop a marketing campaign that highlights the value proposition of landcare, with the aim of raising its profile and attracting new membership.
3. Partner with the National Landcare Network to raise awareness with State and Federal governments about the brand confusion impact of using the word 'landcare' in program titles not delivered by or with community landcare.
4. Work with DELWP to explore ways to measure and communicate the impact of community landcare, without adding significant administrative burden to volunteers.
5. Raise awareness in the landcare community about the importance of grant and activity reporting for securing future resources for the movement.

### Advocate for landcare

6. Advocate to State and Federal government around key funding, policy and project design issues and opportunities.
7. Ensure that organisations who undertake relevant regional, State and Federal program development in conservation, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture fields understand:
  - Importance of local priorities and decision making to landcare
  - That landcare delivers environmental, agricultural, and social, health/wellbeing outcomes
  - Landcare's value proposition.

### Funding

8. Continue to advocate at all levels of government for continued landcare facilitator funding, promoting the importance of these staff as the backbone of community landcare in Victoria.
9. Develop a project prospectus of statewide programs and seek large-scale funding for them to be delivered locally by groups and networks. Projects could focus on climate change, biodiversity action, community education and social health/wellbeing. The prospectus should demonstrate how Victorian landcare can support government and non-government organisations in the delivery of their own outcomes.
10. Continue to build valued and trusted partnerships with government funding partners and political representatives.

### Build the capacity of landcare

11. Support groups to increase participation in landcare by youth, new landholders, retirees, and corporate agriculture.
12. Build the capacity of landcare in areas of governance, staff management, safety, and scientific knowledge.
13. Build the capacity of landcare by enabling access to research, information on best practice and training around new technologies.

### Traditional Owner partnerships

14. Develop a list of Indigenous works crews and promote it to landcare groups and networks.
15. Seek funding to enable cultural management and awareness training sessions to be delivered as local partnerships between Traditional Owner/Indigenous groups and landcare groups across the State.

## Limitations of findings

A number of limitations should be considered when reading this report, these include:

- The recommendations in the report are based purely on interpretations of the engagement findings, further strategic planning, desktop review and targeted engagement would be required to prepare a Landcare Plan.
- The classification of statements captured during engagement into themes can be imprecise e.g., if a participant's statement says the opportunity is 'revegetation', should that be captured as a biodiversity, climate change, erosion control or a salinity measure? Data have been analysed consistently, but it is not an exact science.
- There were a low number of Traditional Owner groups and representatives engaged. Greater engagement would be required to test the recommendations around Traditional Owner partnerships.
- There is a gap in the engagement of youth. No people under the age of 24 participated in the online survey or in the workshops and interviews to the best of our knowledge.
- There are thousands of quotes captured within the engagement data. The quotes contained within this report were selected to capture key points and represent common opinions provided.

## Online survey participant demographics

The following appendix provides a summary of demographic information collected about the 211 online survey participants.

### Association with landcare in Victoria

- 83.41% (n.176) were landcare group or network members
- 2.37% (n.5) were friends group members
- 2.84% (n.6) were other environmental group members
- 4.27% (n.9) were government stakeholders
- 1.42% (n.3) were non-government organisation stakeholders
- 5.69% (n.12) were classified as other

### Age

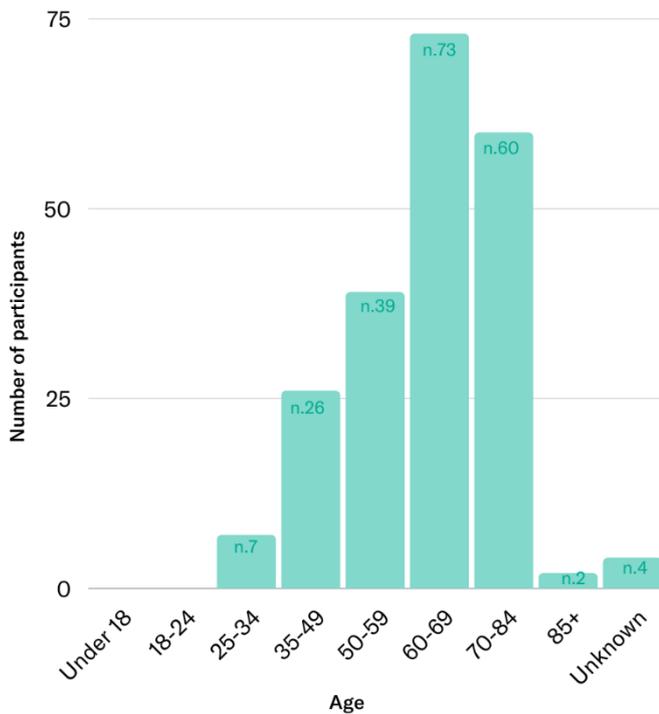


Figure 2. Age of online survey participants

## Gender

- 50.24% (n.106) participants were female, 48.34% (n.102) and 1.42% (n.3) preferred not to answer.

## Residential location

Survey participants provided the following regions as their place of residence. A [map](#) providing guidance on regional boundaries was provided.

Residential region	Percentage of participants	No. participants
Corangamite	10.48%	22
East Gippsland	4.76%	10
Glenelg Hopkins	9.05%	19
Goulburn Broken	11.43%	24
Mallee	1.90%	4
North Central	10.95%	23
North East	13.81%	29
Port Phillip and Westernport	20.00%	42
West Gippsland	9.52%	20
Wimmera	1.43%	3
Other	6.67%	14

## Rural or urban

- 69.05% (n.145) stated that they lived in a rural setting, 13.33% (n.28) in an urban setting, 12.38% (n.38) on an urban fringe and 5.24% (n.11) selected 'other'.

## Strengths, challenges, and opportunities data

The following tables provide a summary of the key themes that emerged from the consultation around strengths, barriers and opportunities. Outlining the number of times each theme was raised during the consultation and the percentage of total points raised.

Table 1: Strength themes for community landcare

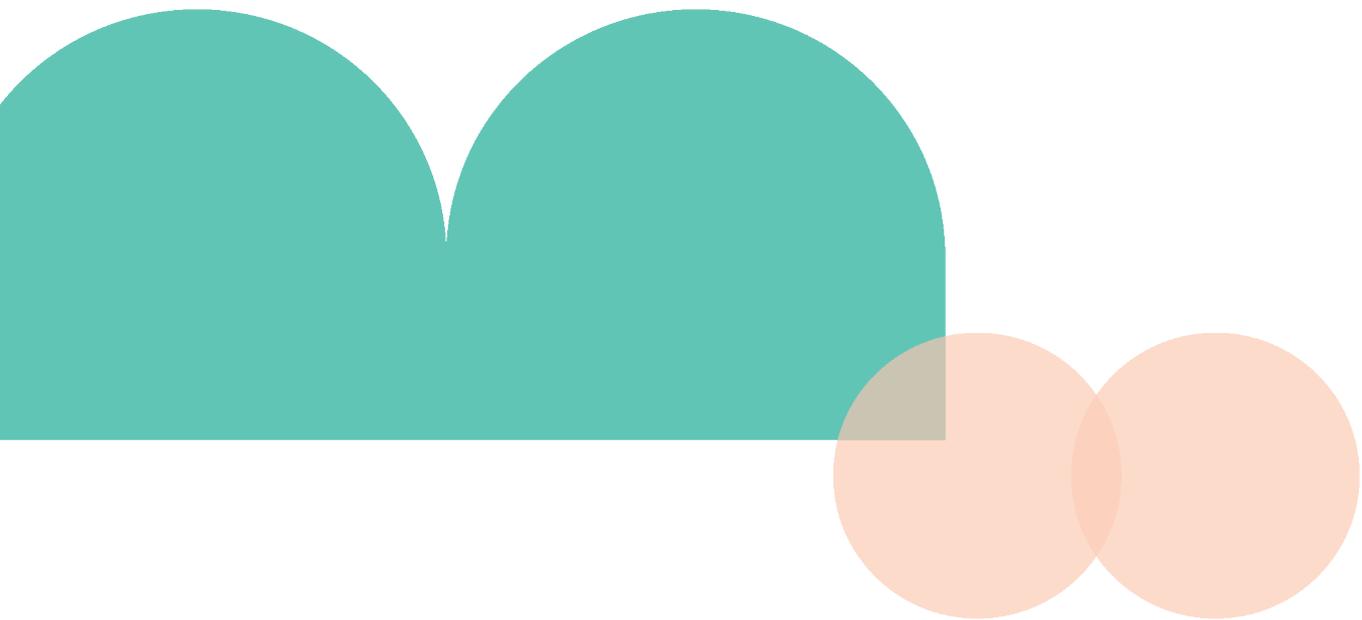
Strength theme	No. times raised	% of total strength points raised
On-ground action and influencing landscape scale change	229	20%
Local people, knowledge, and priorities	176	16%
Community leadership, empowerment, and learning	148	13%
Funded facilitators	95	9%
Mix of agriculture and environment	101	9%
Communities collaborating	82	7%
Volunteers	65	6%
Government and non-government partnerships	54	5%
Contributing to community health and wellbeing	45	4%
Brand and history	42	4%
Advocacy	32	3%
Member numbers and geographic spread	29	3%
Political support	13	1%

Table 2: Challenge and barrier themes for community landcare

Challenge and barrier theme	No. times raised	% Of total strength points raised
Securing sustainable funding and resources	111	23%
Increasing community engagement and memberships	106	22%
Brand, recognition, and shared purpose	76	15%
Building the capacity of landcare	50	10%
Government and non-government relationships and support	49	10%
Environmental challenges	20	4%
Political inaction	23	5%
Integrating Traditional Owner voice, priorities, and aspirations	8	2%
Red tape, compliance, and administrative burdens	23	5%
Succession planning	20	4%

Table 3: Opportunity themes for community landcare

Opportunity theme	No. times raised	% Of total opportunity points raised
Climate adaptation and mitigation	241	16%
Community education and extension	208	14%
Funding and policy	163	11%
Biodiversity action	159	11%
Improving branding, recognition, and demonstration of outcomes	148	10%
Community participation	106	7%
Government and non-government partnerships	96	6%
Sustainable agriculture	86	6%
Traditional Owner relationships and partnerships	77	5%
Communicating the social and wellbeing benefits of landcare	74	5%
Other environmental action	64	4%
Disaster preparedness and recovery	41	3%
Ecosystem services markets	32	2%



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