

East Gippsland Landcare Support Plan

2025 - 2030



**Regional
Landcare**
East Gippsland



**EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and First Nations people of East Gippsland and recognise their continuing connection to Country, Culture and Community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

The artwork featured was commissioned by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and was proudly painted by local Gunaikurnau man, Bradley Brown. The artwork is of this Country, East Gippsland and the people and conversations we have to preserve them for the next generation. It's about the river systems that flow through this area, the mountains and the landscape leading to the sea.'

Disclaimer

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Plan Purpose

This plan outlines the actions the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) will take to support and empower Landcare groups and networks across the region.



Background

Landcare is an established and respected community-based movement active in East Gippsland.

Landcare networks work with local Landcare groups engaging their communities to address local and landscape-scale issues by;

- taking direct action through on-ground works,
- up-skilling their volunteers, and
- working in partnership with government agencies and other stakeholders.

This Regional Landcare Support Plan explains how the EGCMA will continue to support and coordinate Landcare in the region – working together to protect and enhance our natural assets.

Collaborative Efforts

Landcare networks and associated groups in East Gippsland have a long history of transforming land management challenges into on-ground successes. By strategically aligning efforts, Landcare aims to amplify our impact, undertaking collaborative projects that restore environmental health and enhance agricultural sustainability across the entire region.

The EGCMA disseminates Government policy and information to the community of East Gippsland and provides strategic leadership on current and emerging government initiatives in natural resource management. For more information on relevant policy and information see Appendix 1 *Key strategies and policies*. It acts as a conduit between government and community to build cooperative connections between the two. The EGCMA recognises the importance of establishing strong partnerships with the community, government, business and stakeholders which assist in building a sustainable economic, social and ecological future for the region. The Landcare networks and groups across the region are valued partners of the EGCMA. Other regional partners, government and non-government also play a role in assisting Landcare in the region.

EGCMA's role and commitment to support Landcare

The EGCMA recognises the important role community groups play in protecting and enhancing the region. It also recognises and values the significant volunteer movement in natural resource management (NRM) that is characteristic of the regional community. Dedicated community members are fundamental to managing natural resources in the region. The EGCMA assists in coordination of priorities to help the Landcare community to achieve their goals and contribute to regional natural resource management goals. This will benefit the well-being of land, people and communities within the East Gippsland region.

The EGCMA is committed to:

- ▶ Helping Landcare groups and networks to align with natural resource management priorities and efforts across the state and region and therefore accessing funds to carry out priority work.
- ▶ Helping Landcare groups communicate local priorities to the State Government.
- ▶ Sustaining Landcare groups and networks through supporting them to achieve their goals by assisting with administrative and management tasks.
- ▶ Expanding Landcare pathways into the future by assisting groups and networks to explore new opportunities.
- ▶ Valuing Landcare efforts in the region by publicly recognising and rewarding Landcare contributions and successes.
- ▶ Understanding the strengths and barriers to Landcare and striving for continual improvement.



Landcare in East Gippsland

East Gippsland's Landcare movement spans an extensive region, from the fringes of Bairnsdale to the New South Wales border, see *Appendix 3 - EGCMA Region - Landcare Group Areas Map 2025*. Within this diverse landscape, a powerful network of community volunteers is dedicated to protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

Action is coordinated through four key networks that provide support and foster collaboration:

- East Gippsland Landcare Network
- Tambo Valley High Country
- Far East Victoria Landcare
- Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee

The region has 32 Landcare groups formed with their own plans and objectives that they achieve individually and collectively. The groups are largely run by volunteers, with support from Landcare Facilitators and the Regional Landcare Coordinator and a range of partners. Landcare volunteers are wide ranging and work across public and private land.



The region has a number of people employed to work with Landcare to support many volunteers. Figure 1 shows the connections between the Landcare groups and key stakeholders that work within Landcare in the region. For further information on key stakeholders, see *Appendix 2 Landcare in Victoria Stakeholder Map*.



Key Positions in Landcare

Regional Landcare Coordinator Funded by State Government (DEECA), employed by EGCMA

The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) is a position funded by the Victorian Government and hosted by the EGCMA. The role provides strategic guidance, coordination, and support for the Landcare program across East Gippsland, focusing on linking state government investment priorities with regional Landcare priorities.

Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) Funded by Federal Government (DAFF), hosted by FEVL

The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) is a designated central contact point for farmers, landholders, industry, and community groups and will aim to support sustainable agriculture practices in East Gippsland. The SAF role will also perform services that support Regional Capacity Services and other sustainable agriculture related project services.

Landcare Network Coordinators & Landcare Facilitators Funded by State Government (DEECA), employed by Landcare networks or groups

Works with local Landcare groups by facilitating opportunities to develop projects, learn and share new information and gather funding. This position shares info about their network and advocates at the regional level and support Landcare relationship with EGCMA



Figure 1: East Gippsland Landcare Core Partners

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

- Technical Expertise & Resources
- Collaboration & Capacity Building
- Project Support
- Coordinate initiatives
- VLG delivery
- Host RLC

Landcare Australia

- Brands and logos
- National Landcare Awards
- Grants programs

Australian Government

- Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)
- Funds the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator

Landcare Victoria Inc.

- Support and governance to networks and groups
- Information and advice
- Insurance
- Training & education forums

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

- Victorian Landcare program funding and support
- Funds the RLC

Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF)

Hosted by Far East Victoria Landcare, operates across the whole East Gippsland Region

- Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building
- Project Support
- Stakeholder Collaboration

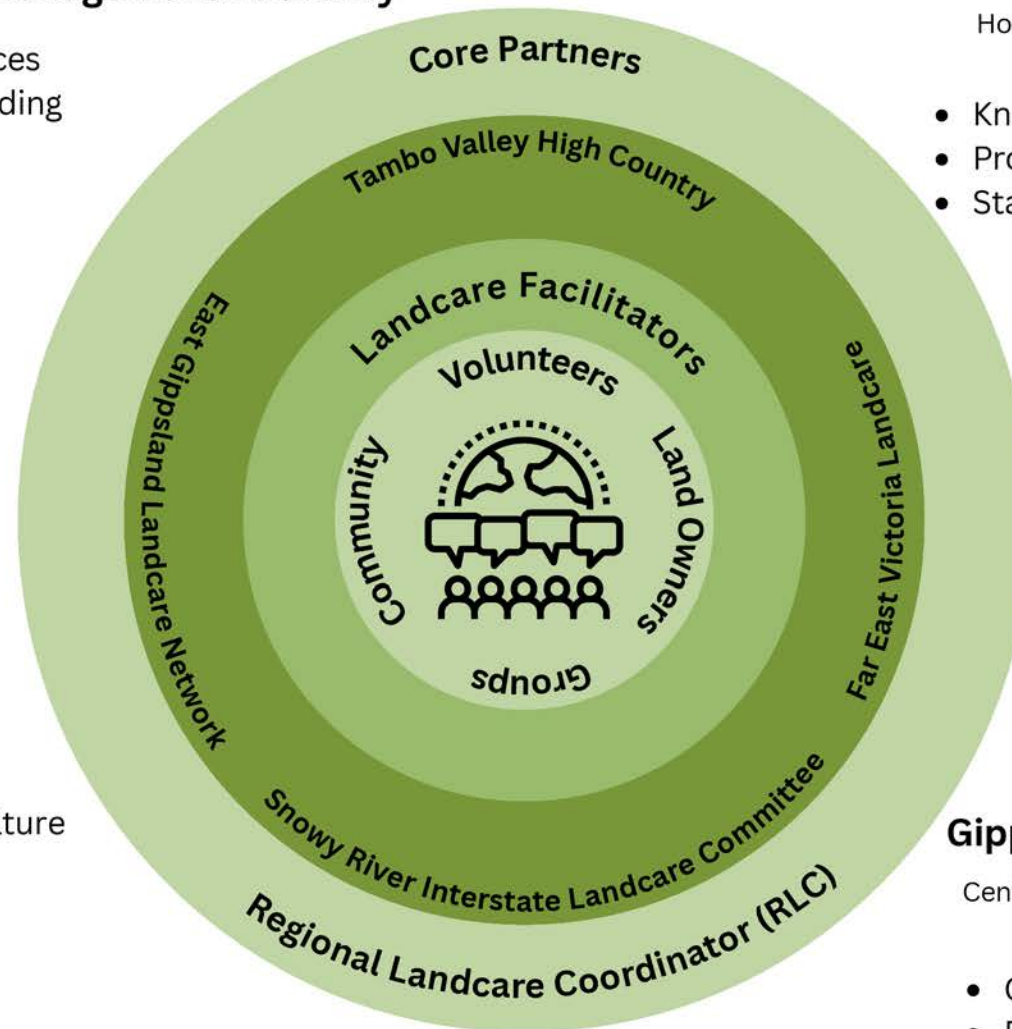
East Gippsland Shire Council

- Funding & Resourcing
- Land & Permit Facilitation
- Community Coordination
- Project collaboration

Gippsland Agricultural Group (GAgG)

Centralised volunteer organisation that is driven and managed by farmers, for farmers.

- Collaboration & on-ground projects
- Farmer-Led Engagement
- Resource & Expertise Sharing



LANDCARE SUPPORT PLAN 2025-2028

This plan has been updated with input from the East Gippsland Regional Landcare Coordinator, Landcare Network Chairs, regional Landcare staff and EGCMA staff following a review of the previous plan. This plan builds on the previous 2020 - 2025 plan and has been developed using Victoria's Volunteering for Nature, Environmental Volunteering Plan 2018 developed by DEECA. The themes will guide the development of an annual action plan as detailed in Figure 2.



Annual actions will be developed in consultation with the staff and executives of each Landcare network.



Figure 2: Five key themes and the associated objectives will guide the development of actions, these are:



1 Sustain

Objective: Support networks to achieve their goal

Make it easier for volunteers and groups to get on with the job of volunteering, reduce the burden of legal and administrative tasks that limit time available to look after the natural environment.

Why support networks to achieve their goals?

By streamlining administrative work and allowing Landcare groups and networks to focus on achieving their goals, volunteers can get on with what they signed up for – looking after the environment, local communities and caring for the land.



2 Expand

Objective: Expand beyond the usual ways of Landcare

Develop new ideas and ways to act for the environment through encouragement of inclusive, relevant and diverse opportunities for volunteering in the region.

Why expand beyond the usual ways of Landcare?

Different mechanisms for engagement of volunteers may result in attracting a different range of demographics to Landcare resulting in new volunteers to expand the Landcare movement in the region.



3 Align

Objective: Align our work across the region

Focus on Landcare relationships with government and non-government organisations, maximising opportunities to achieve the goals of the Landcare networks where they align with regional priorities. Facilitate collaborative efforts where goals of Landcare align with those of government and non-government organisations.

Why align our work across the region?

Where there are shared goals, collaboration between Landcare and partner organisations can fast track outcomes giving benefits to volunteers and the environment.



4 Understand

Objective: Understand motivations, barriers and opportunities concerning Landcare volunteering to inform program design and continuous improvement

Work with networks to monitor and review Landcare across the region and work to continuously improve the regional Landcare movement.

Why understand motivations, barriers and opportunities concerning Landcare volunteering to inform program design and continuous improvement?

With a better understanding of motivations, barriers and opportunities, we can create relevant projects and improve the volunteer experience, leading to better outcomes for East Gippsland's environment.



5 Value

Objective: Communicate and celebrate the efforts of Landcare

Recognise and celebrate Landcare within government and the broader community.

Why communicate and celebrate the efforts of Landcare in the region?

To raise the profile of Landcare and its achievements so that volunteers feel valued and understand their collective impact on the health of our region. New volunteers may be attracted by the ongoing success of the movement.

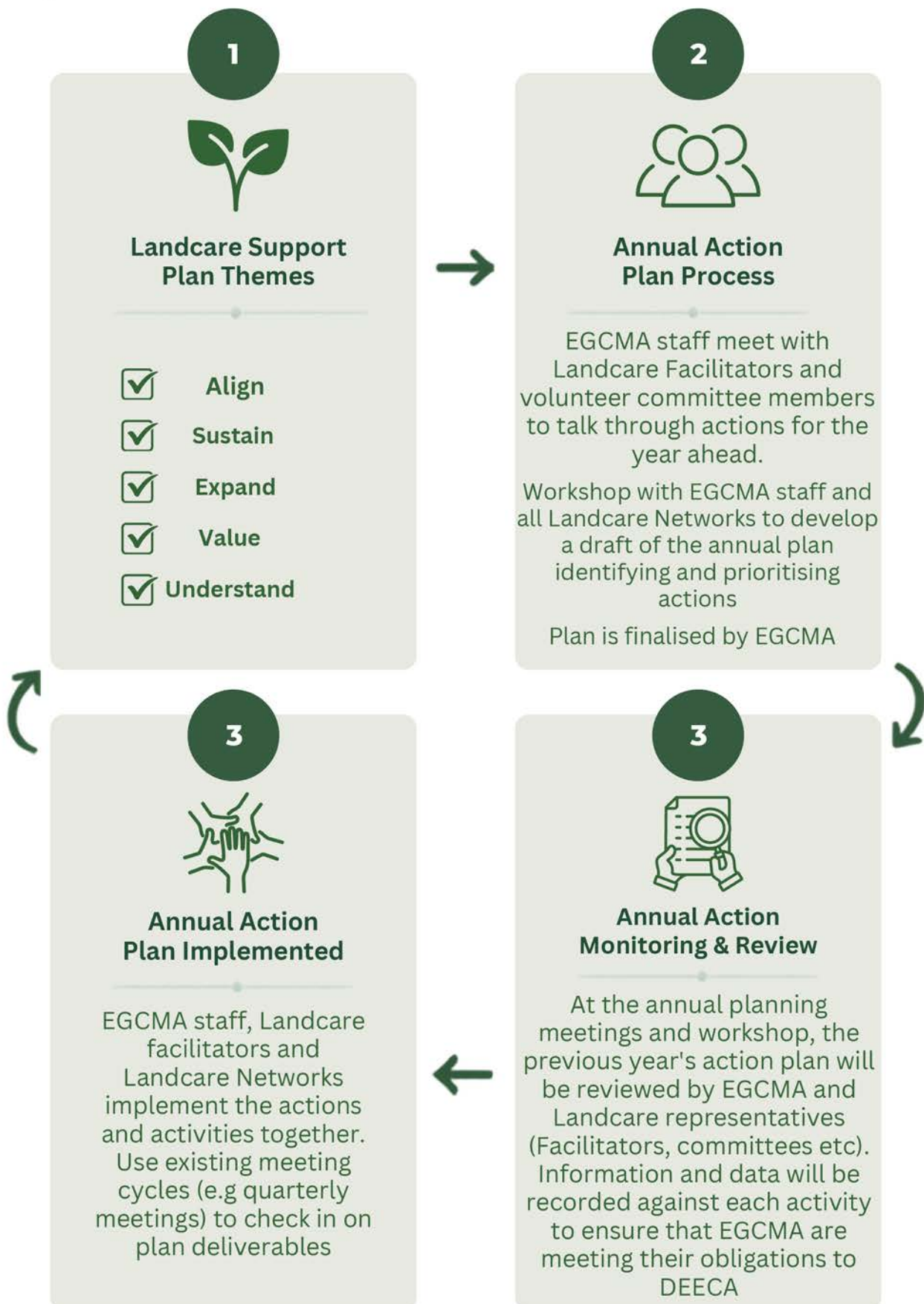


Alignment of Regional and Victorian Landcare Plans

The regional support plan is aligned with the overarching ten-year Landcare Plan for Victoria 2023–2033, which provides the strategic framework for community-led environmental action across the state. This is operationalised through Landcare Victoria's Strategic Plan 2025–2027, which sets out the immediate priorities of doubling grassroots participation, building climate-resilient landscapes, and securing ongoing government investment. This regional plan translates those state-level objectives into locally relevant actions and support mechanisms tailored to our region's unique needs and capacity.

Landcare Plan for Victoria focus areas	Landcare Plan for Victoria 10-year Outcome statement	EGCMA Regional Support Plan Objectives
 Local to global impact	Local and landscape scale planning and action supports resilient, biodiverse and productive landscapes	Align our work across the region
 Community knowledge and resilience	Landcare driven education and community connections support resilient, biodiverse and productive landscapes and knowledgeable, culturally inclusive communities	Understand motivations, barriers and opportunities concerning Landcare volunteering to inform program design and continuous improvement
 Demonstrating value and impact	Landcare demonstrates its significant value and positive impact on communities and landscapes	Communicate and celebrate the efforts of Landcare
 Healthy and varied partnerships	Landcare maintains diverse and healthy partnerships that support landscapes priorities	Align our work across the region
 An active and diverse landscape community	Landcare is driven and supported by an active and diverse community of volunteers and land stewards	Support networks to achieve their goal
 A supported and effective Landcare community	Landcare volunteers and professionals use their connections, knowledge, skills and effective governance to positively impact their communities and landscapes	Expand beyond the usual ways of Landcare

How will the support plan be implemented?



EGCMA Annual Action Plan Template

Theme	Objective	Annual Actions	Priority
Align	Align our work across the region - Focus on Landcare relationships with government and non-government organisations, maximising opportunities to achieve the goals of the Landcare networks where they align with regional priorities. - Facilitate collaborative efforts where goals of Landcare align with those of government and non-government organisation	Landcare will deliver landscape and cross network-scale projects by coordinating efforts and fostering regional partnerships. This could include: - Priority Weeds Group Establishment - A “weed of the month” awareness campaign - Landscape scale, joint project applications	
Sustain	Support networks to achieve their goals Make it easier for volunteers and groups to get on with the job of volunteering, reduce the burden of legal and administrative tasks that limit time available to look after our natural environment	Support governance and compliance requirements. This could include: - Addressing succession planning within groups and managing change at both group and network levels. - Mentoring Program – An annual mentoring program to pair experienced groups or individuals with those needing support.	
Expand	Expand beyond the usual ways of Landcare Develop new ideas and ways to act for the environment through encouragement of inclusive, relevant and diverse opportunities for volunteering in the region.	Develop new ideas and ways to act for the environment through encouragement of inclusive, relevant and diverse opportunities for volunteering in the region. This could include: Passion Mashing training: Take ideas back to networks on innovative ways to engage participation, build on Passion mashing workshop from last year.	
Value	Communicate and celebrate the efforts of Landcare Recognise and celebrate Landcare within government and the broader community	Communicate and celebrate the efforts of Landcare. Recognise and celebrate Landcare within government and the broader community. This could include: - Case study examples of successful projects, achievements, or impactful work. - Raise the profile of Landcare achievements across East Gippsland and mark the 40-year legacy meaningfully.	
Understand	Understanding motivations, barriers and opportunities concerning Landcare volunteering to inform program design and continuous improvement Work with networks to monitor and review Landcare across the region and work to continuously improve the regional Landcare movement	Understanding motivations, barriers and opportunities concerning Landcare volunteering to inform program design and continuous improvement. This could include: - Circulate existing group health data - Produce annual Landcare report card	

Monitoring & Evaluation

Review & Update Schedule

Progress against this plan is monitored through a structured cycle of reporting and formal reviews:

- Annual: Landcare Networks report on the Annual Action Plan, while the RLC reviews CMA-aligned strategic actions.
- Mid-term (June 2027): A formal review of this Regional Landcare Plan.
- Full Review (2030): A comprehensive update of the entire plan.

Reporting Structure

The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) is responsible for reporting annually to DEECA on the delivery of work against the established agreement. The annual report will include:

- The Regional Landcare Report Card, providing an overview of Landcare's status in the region.
- A summary of delivered outputs.
- An update on the progress of the Landcare Support Plan implementation.

Appendix 1 - Key strategies and policies

The work of the EGCMA and partner agencies is guided by a range of regional, state, and national strategies, policies, and programs. These documents are instrumental in identifying priority areas for investment and on-ground action. For Landcare members, leaders, and staff, having a strong understanding of these strategic frameworks is extremely valuable. This knowledge is a key asset for guiding successful grant applications and informing effective project planning within the East Gippsland region.

Regional / Local		
East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy	EGCMA	The East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) is the primary, long-term integrated plan for managing land, water, and biodiversity across the East Gippsland region. It provides a 20-year vision and a 6-year action plan to coordinate efforts between communities, government, and partners.
Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan	GLaWAC	The Gunaikurnai Whole of Country Plan is the foundational strategic document developed by the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). It articulates the long-term vision, cultural priorities, and management objectives of the Gunaikurnai people for their traditional lands and waters in the Gippsland region of Victoria.

State		
Protecting Victoria's environment - Biodiversity 2037	DEECA	Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 is the Victorian Government's long-term strategy to halt the decline of the state's native plants, animals, and ecosystems, and to restore natural environments over the period to 2037
Landcare Plan for Victoria 2023-2033	Landcare Victoria Inc.	The Landcare Plan for Victoria 2023-2033 outlines the landcare community's collective priorities for the decade and highlights key actions that require support to achieve these outcomes. The Plan's six focus areas were developed based on engagement with the Victorian landcare community with a vision of "Local people working together for resilient, biodiverse, and productive Victorian landscapes."
Victorians Volunteering in Nature - environmental volunteering plan (EVP) 2018	DEECA	The EVP is Victoria's strategy to support, grow, and diversify the state's network of environmental volunteers and groups, including Landcare, Coastcare, Friends groups, and others. The RLC role supports the implementation of this plan by supporting Landcare to sustain, expand and share their work, and building relationships between Landcare and Aboriginal communities.

Federal (Australian Government)

Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031	DCCEEW	Australia's Threatened Species Strategy (2021-2031) directs government action and investment toward species recovery. Guided by 5-year Action Plans, it concentrates efforts on 100 priority threatened species and 20 priority places through defined targets and actions.
National Soil Strategy 2021-2031	DAFF	The National Soil Strategy sets out how Australia will value, manage and improve its soil for the next 20 years. It prioritises soil health, empowers soil innovation and stewards, and strengthens soil knowledge and capability. It is relevant to Landcare groups working on sustainable agriculture programs and provides funding for soil testing and data collection, research and soil health activities.
Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030	DCCEEW	The strategy sets a national framework for government, non-government and community action to strengthen Australia's response to biodiversity decline and care



Appendix 3 - EGCMA Region - Landcare Group Areas Map 2025

