



Gunning District
Landcare

Gunning District Landcare Strategic Plan 2022-2025



Our Mission

To support and empower our community in building a sustainable and ecologically healthy Gunning District, with farms that are economically and environmentally sustainable, landscapes rich in natural biodiversity, and communities that are happy, cohesive and resilient.

Goals

1. Respond effectively to climate change

Gunning District Landcare recognises that we live in a rapidly changing world, as climate change pressures and technological advances reshape both our landscape and our response to these changes. Our response to the challenge of climate change should include both mitigation and adaption, striving to achieve a carbon-neutral future while adapting farming and land management to better suit the hotter and more extreme climate yet to come.

2. Engage effectively with the community

Gunning District Landcare will maintain wide and active engagement with the community – including production farmers, smaller landholders, business enterprises, village residents and school children. We acknowledge the Aboriginal custodians of the Gunning area, and will seek to build meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal people and groups in our area. We recognise that the Gunning district consists not only of Gunning but also other villages such as Collector, Dalton, Jerrawa and Breadalbane, along with smaller settlements and the surrounding farms and land holdings. We aim to increase our profile in the media (including social media), our website traffic and the numbers of people participating in Gunning District Landcare activities by making all of these relevant and appealing.

3. Increase participation and membership

It is important to not only engage with the community, but also to ensure that Gunning District Landcare builds its membership. Recognising that the demographics of the Gunning district community are changing as the population grows, we must ensure that we continue to be relevant, welcoming and inclusive. We aim to foster a culture within our group that reflects these values. Everyone with an interest in caring for our land and/or an appreciation of the natural environment will feel welcome and respected as a member of the group.

Strategic focus

1. Stimulate and embrace new ideas

Gunning District Landcare will remain agile in order to effectively anticipate and respond to challenges in our region. We will adopt a culture of encouragement and openness towards new and different ideas consistent with our goals.

2. Strategically plan and implement actions

Gunning District Landcare sees sound planning and implementation as critical to the success of all our actions. We need to keep focussed on Gunning District Landcare's mission and seek opportunities to fulfil multiple goals through specific activities. Before undertaking any project we must ensure that adequate funding has been secured, including any management and contractor components.

3. Work effectively

We must work efficiently and effectively as a group, maintaining full accountability and discharging our constitutional responsibilities in a professional manner. This can be supported by ensuring that the group's basic organisational structures are healthy and can sustain our actions, including through the formation of sub-committees that involve members of the Gunning District Landcare committee as well as non-committee members and others in our community. A professional bookkeeper should be retained as the most efficient way to ensure transparent accounting practices.

4. Maintain a professional coordinator

Gunning District Landcare recognises that having a professional coordinator to work a minimum of two days per week is critical to the group's success. Gunning District Landcare intends to maintain funding for a professional coordinator on an ongoing basis, seeking funding through appropriate agencies.

5. Nurture and increase partnerships

Since its inception, Gunning District Landcare has developed fruitful partnerships with a range of local groups and organisations. Our goal is to nurture these existing connections as well as build new ones. Good communication and coordination with Upper Lachlan Landcare are especially important. We must work closely with Upper Lachlan Shire Council and Local Land Services, while recognising the demarcation of responsibilities between us and these organisations.

6. Proactively seek and secure funding

The success of Gunning District Landcare depends on having funds available to run activities that contribute to our mission. Gunning District Landcare will seek funding through grants from State and Federal Government departments and agencies, philanthropic foundations, and other similar bodies. Currently a registered charity, Gunning District Landcare will continue to pursue listing on the Deductible Gifts Register.

Activities (overview) 2022-2025

	On-going activities	Planned activities
Threatened species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conserve the threatened Southern Pygmy Perch: work with community, scientists and relevant agencies to follow recommendations from the local action plan ➤ Mates of Munderoon program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Care for threatened species in the Gunning district; create an information booklet to distribute to landholders and residents
Biodiversity and landscape function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant native shrubs, trees and grasses to increase biodiversity and landscape function ➤ Contribute to the conservation and enhancement of local natural areas, such as the Gunning Golf course, Gunning Showground and Dalton bush block 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rejuvenate high priority riparian areas such as Oolong Creek ➤ Review land management practices including erosion control
Pests and weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feral Fox Fighters: work closely with Local Land Services and landholders to increase the effectiveness of this program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work collaboratively to manage designated weeds and pest animals, with a particular focus on emerging weeds
Public education and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hold relevant forums and hands-on workshops ➤ School holiday program: host engaging activities for young people ➤ Maintain on-line and social media presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extend the program of forums and workshops, tailored to local needs and interests including climate change ➤ Organise a major event focussed on what it means for ULSC to be a Carbon Neutral Shire