



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

Ref 42/14/0172



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Ms Christine McDonald  
Secretary, Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Reference  
Committee  
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Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Email [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms McDonald

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the National Landcare Program. I am currently not in a position to provide a formal submission to the Inquiry but can make a number of observations in relation to the successful implementation of Australian Government funding programmes such as the Caring for our Country initiative in South Australia.

### **State Context**

South Australia's statutory Natural Resources Management (NRM) planning framework (the State NRM Plan and regional NRM plans) can contribute to priority setting at a national level and improve investment efficiencies and outcomes. "*Our Place, Our Future - State Natural Resources Management Plan South Australia 2012-2017*" was released in June 2012, (<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-plans>).

The State NRM Plan recognises the importance of the Australian Government as a partner with the state and regional natural resources management boards (NRM boards) to invest in programs and projects for the environmental management of natural resources and the development of the regions.

South Australia's eight NRM boards each work with all sectors of the community and all levels of government to provide strategic leadership for the management of natural resources in their region. The NRM boards identify regional priorities, decide where to invest, and monitor and communicate the progress of NRM in their region.

DEWNR strongly supports cooperation across all tiers of government to enable complementary and effective planning, priority setting, investment and delivery of NRM outcomes. I believe that there is opportunity to work more closely with the Australian Government regarding planning and priority setting, which has the potential to add value to each jurisdiction's programs and reduces duplication of effort.

South Australia has a strong record in developing cross-institutional partnerships and any future National Landcare Program planning should include capacity to develop these partnerships in a collaborative rather than competitive environment.

If you have any queries, please contact John Schutz, Group Executive Director, Partnerships and Stewardship on phone (08) 8124 4713 or email

Yours Sincerely

Allan Holmes  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5/8/2014