

Strengthening Partnerships
for Local Landscapes

A Council–Landcare Member Toolkit

This guide supports Tasmanian local government Councils and Landcare Tasmania members in building effective partnerships to care for Lutruwita/Trouwerner's oceans, waterways, ecosystems, and communities.





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Cover image: Mt Nelson Bushcare for Plant a Tree Day in Lamberts Gully, Sandy Bay. (Credit: Landcare Tasmania)

Image above: National Tree Day, Bridgewater. (Credit: Huon Douglas)

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1. Council and Landcare Group Collaboration Guide – Key Messages



Landcare Tasmania is a not-for-profit peak body that represents **249 member groups, 10 associate members, 21 schools, and 156 individual members** across Tasmania in 2025.



Landcare members contributed more than **\$7.4 million** worth of **volunteer time** across Tasmania in 2024.



Landcare Tasmania and Landcare groups have identified **local Councils** as **key partners** in caring for **land, water and biodiversity** of Lutruwita/Tasmania.



Landcare builds **community wellbeing** by **connecting people** with nature, enhancing mental health, physical activity, and social cohesion, thereby helping address local council environmental and health and wellbeing priorities.



Councils **support Landcare groups** through partnerships that can include membership and insurance sponsorship, employment, native plant nursery support, rate rebates, project planning support, communication support, grants, contractor assistance, training and tools.



Landcare groups **provide Councils** with **vital on-ground capacity** for biodiversity conservation, weed management, feral animal control, strategic planning input, local expertise and river health monitoring that **help support** Council's strategic environmental plans.



Landcare Tasmania **supports** both members and Councils via **programs** through partnerships in education, advocacy, landscape restoration, and funding access through the Project Bank platform.



Landcare Tasmania's **website** is a **key source of information** for both groups and Council about getting started with how to find your local groups, membership, group support, training requests, newsletters, grant notifications, events calendar, partnerships portal, reading rooms and so much more.



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SUPPORTED BY



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2. Acknowledgement of Country

Landcare Tasmania acknowledges that the island of Lutruwita/Trouwerner is Aboriginal Land, sovereignty was not, and never will be, ceded. Aboriginal people have cared for the lands, waterways, skies, and communities of Lutruwita/Trouwerner since the beginning of time. We pay respects to the Palawa/Pakana of Lutruwita/Trouwerner and strive to fulfil our simple but collective vision – that all Tasmanian communities are empowered and enabled to care for the land and waterways of Lutruwita/Trouwerner. Landcare Tasmania is committed to continuously listening, learning, and building stronger relationships with Aboriginal communities.

Image right: Welcome to Country in Cradoc, Tasmania. (Credit: Jemimah Phelps, 2023)



3. Introduction

Landcare Tasmania is the peak body for community Landcare in Tasmania. Established in 1994, Landcare Tasmania's core purpose is to represent, strengthen, support and grow Tasmania's community Landcare movement. Through member services programs, ranging from funding and skill building to insurance, Landcare Tasmania supports a strong network of people and organisations across every municipality who care for land, water, and biodiversity throughout Lutruwita/Trouwerner.

This document is designed to showcase the incredible impact of partnerships between Landcare Tasmania's members and groups, and Tasmanian Councils. Using storytelling (case studies), this document will demonstrate how, through collaboration, local communities can be empowered to support healthy environments across our island home.

Landcare volunteers operate in every municipality across Tasmania and there is a real need for greater communication, engagement and support of Landcare members through Council processes and support. The development of this guide aims to outline the models and processes that all Councils across Tasmania might use, and those which some Councils are already successfully using.

A survey of Landcare members in 2022 by Landcare Tasmania shows that 88% of Landcarers identified their local Councils as one of their most important partners.

Two additional surveys in 2025, the *Council Landcare Support Survey*, targeted both Councils (17 respondents) and Landcare members (54 respondents). The results highlighted the various ways Tasmanian Councils and Landcare groups work together, their success stories, and areas requiring strengthening.

Image below: Landcare Tasmania Workshop
(Credit: Jemimah Phelps 2023)



4. Why Landcare Matters

4.1 Improving Community Wellbeing

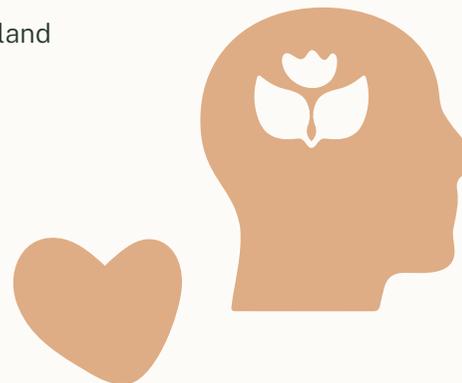
Landcare groups offer an opportunity to create social connections, fostering a healthier, more connected community within the municipality. Landcarers report feeling better physically and mentally (KPMG 2021).

Social isolation and loneliness can harm both mental and physical health, and may affect life satisfaction and wellbeing. In 2022, almost one in seven (15%) Australians (18% of males and 12% of females) were experiencing social isolation and just over one in six (16%) Australians were experiencing loneliness (AIHW 2025).

In 2021, Landcare Australia engaged KPMG to understand “*The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare*”. Key findings from that report were:

- 46% of survey respondents reported an improvement in their mental resilience
- Avoided healthcare costs were \$57 million for the estimated Landcare population (or \$403 per Landcarer)
- 93% of Landcarers report a stronger connection to the land
- 90% of Landcarers experience a stronger connection to the community
- 19% reported a reduced use of physical health services

Image right: Meander Valley – Landcare field trip. (Credit: Nick Hanson)



Being a part of Landcare Tasmania gets people active, outdoors, socialising and using their hands and brains!

4.2 Enhancing and Protecting the Environment

Landcarers support the long-term protection and restoration of the natural areas in the municipality and across the whole state by participating in on-ground activities and events, capacity building, knowledge sharing and advocacy.

The State of the Environment Report for Tasmania 2024 reveals that nearly two-thirds of environmental indicators are in decline or poor condition, with 50% of coastal and marine indicators worsening (The Australia Institute, 2024). Notably, 16.5% of native vertebrate fauna are listed as threatened. The report also emphasises the decline of native vegetation and the fragmentation of habitats (State of the Environment Report, 2024).

Volunteering by Landcarers contributes significant long-term local capital for municipalities including, but not limited to, securing funding, weed management, revegetation, rubbish clean-up days, monitoring and public education.



**Landcare volunteers
contribute significant
long-term local capital
for municipalities**



Image above: National Tree Day, Bridgewater. (Credit: Huon Douglas)

CASE STUDY 1.

Port Cygnet Land and Watercare – Celebrating the long-term custodians of a Rivercare project in Cygnet

The Port Cygnet Land and Watercare Group (PCLWG), established in 1995 in the Huon Valley municipality, is an excellent example of continuity in long-term on-ground Landcare projects. The group mainly works on the removal of weeds (primarily crack willow), fencing and revegetation on Agnes Rivulet in Cygnet, including sections of Council owned land. The project has been funded in many stages through the Landcare Action Grants, the Tasmanian Landcare Fund (via Landcare Tasmania's Project Bank) and supported by Huon Valley Council NRM grants and materials. The PCLWG and participating landowners have developed a strong connection with this project, resulting in diligent follow-up monitoring and maintenance. The group are to be congratulated in partnering with Council, Landcare Tasmania and approximately 38 landowners who have participated in the project over the years with the group now celebrating the completion of weeding and planting a staggering seven kilometres of riparian vegetation. (See map to the right).

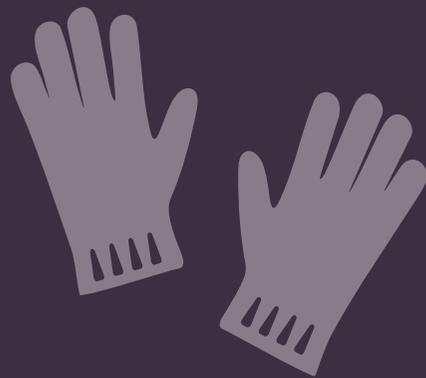
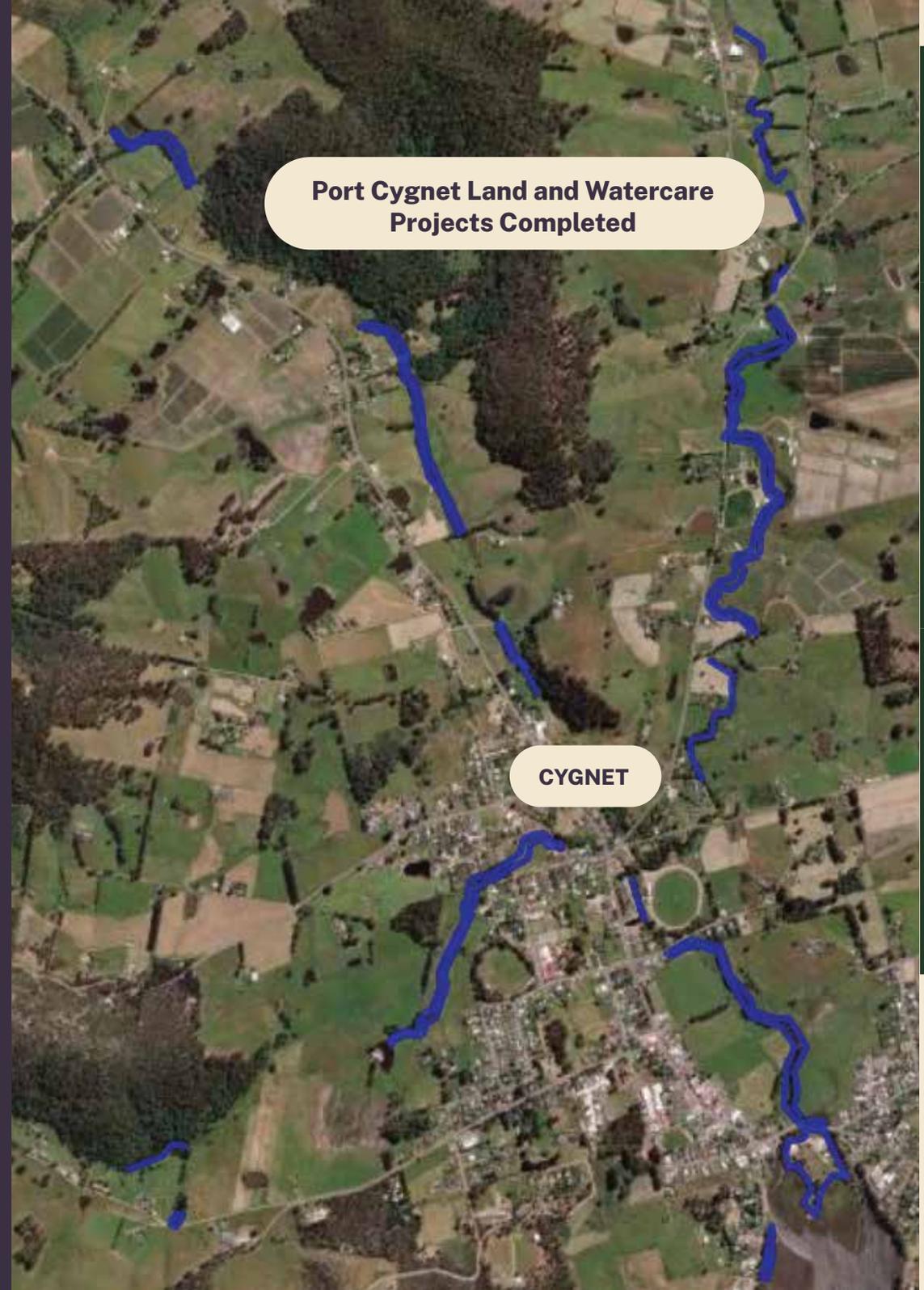


Figure 1. Blue lines indicate the areas on the map of riparian planting completed by PCLWG.



4.3 Addressing Funding and Resource Constraints

For over 30 years, Landcare members and groups have been active partners with Tasmanian Councils in advancing natural resource management (NRM) priorities across the state.

Landcare groups provide ongoing stewardship of special areas in each municipality in Tasmania through thousands of volunteer hours (158,594 hours in 2024), of on-ground activities, and contributions to project planning and working groups. This results in the valuable addition of local expertise to environmental initiatives. In return, Landcare members may benefit from Council support through support with communication, investment and public recognition.

However, as highlighted by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT, 2024), many Tasmanian Councils often operate under constrained financial conditions, limiting their capacity to fully respond to environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and struggle with securing adequate funding for comprehensive NRM strategies. While community grants and support for grassroots environmental projects are offered by most Councils, these measures can sometimes fall short in meeting the broader environmental needs.

Landcare plays a critical role in helping to fill this gap, stretching limited public funds and ensuring that NRM efforts remain grounded in local priorities and community ownership.



Image above: Seed Collection Workshop
Clarence. (Credit: Yasmin Mund)



**158,594 volunteer
hours in 2024**

5. Surveys and Data

In development of this guide, Landcare Tasmania has sourced data from two surveys:

5.1 The Council and Landcare Survey 2025

Landcare Tasmania undertook research with Landcare members and the 29 Tasmanian Councils in 2025. The *Council Landcare Support Survey* was sent to all 29 Councils and the 321 Landcare groups (in 2024) to ask about what has been working well and identify areas that might be improved. 54 Landcare members and 17 Tasmanian Councils responded. A summary of the key data can be found at the back of this booklet.

5.2 The Membership Renewal Survey 2025

This is part of the annual renewal process where key data from the previous year (2024) is collected. Data includes the number of groups, where they worked, their activities and the number of hours spent.

Image below: Coastal Landcarers Field Trip.
(Credit: Landcare Tasmania)



The total value that Landcare members contributed across Tasmania in 2024 was \$7.4 million

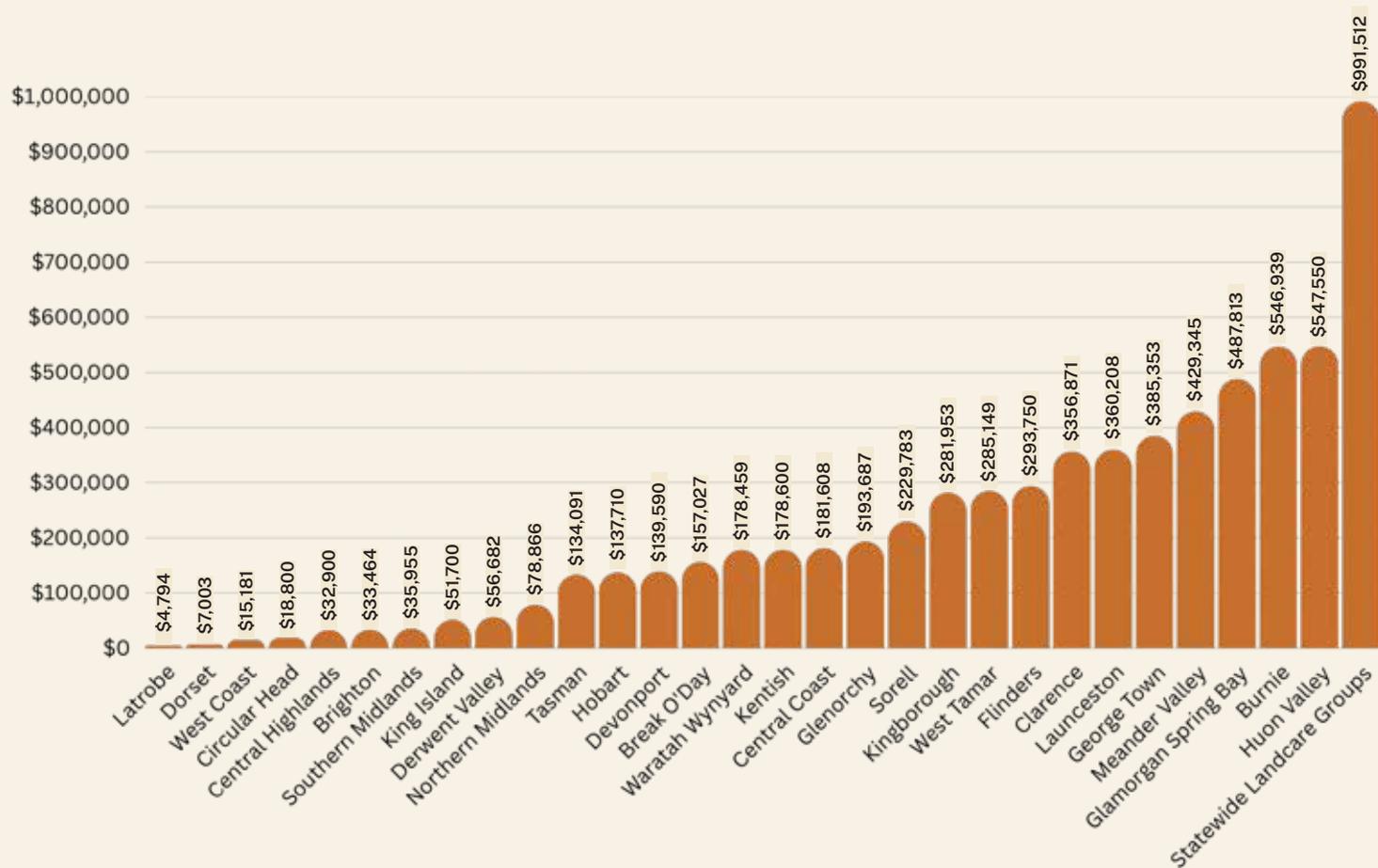


Figure 2. Value in \$ of Landcare groups' volunteer hours in 2024, by municipality. Data from Landcare Tasmania's 2025 membership renewal process. Hourly rate for volunteers calculated using the Centre of Volunteering cost of volunteering calculator. 'Statewide' refers to groups operating over the whole state. Note: these figures are not including time spent by individual members.

6. Working Together

Supported by Landcare Tasmania



6.1 Examples of Council's Support for Landcare Members

6.1.1 Strategic and Planning Support

Councils can:

- Provide guidance through NRM Strategies, Reserve Management Plans and Integrated Council Environment Plans (ICEPs).
- Enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Landcare groups (including Kingborough Council and Waratah-Wynyard Council).
- Enter into voluntary *Part 5 Agreements* with private landholders for the protection of existing natural values and restoration projects. *Part 5 Agreements* are a mechanism under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* that allow property owners to voluntarily register part of their land as a conservation area on their title, through an agreement with their local Council. Kingborough Council is a leader in this space. For reference, the Kingborough *Part 5 Agreement* template can be found at www.kingborough.tas.gov.au.
- Establish a Biodiversity Offset Mechanism through Council environmental planning process. For example, Kingborough Council has a Biodiversity Offset Policy based on the Southern Tasmanian Council Authority's Biodiversity Offset Guidelines 2013. The offset mechanism has resulted in the establishment of a Kingborough Environmental Fund and the Guidelines for the Expenditure of the Kingborough Environmental Fund. The fund is used to pay for covenants on private land and stewardship payments towards those covenants. This has the potential to support Landcare member activities where individual members would like to declare a conservation covenant and when work is located on these covenants.

CASE STUDY 2.

Celebrating Council and Landcare groups using a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Waratah-Wynyard Council and Wynyard Landcare Group Inc. MOU

The purpose of the MOU between Waratah-Wynyard Council and Wynyard Landcare group is to agree to work together to conserve natural ecosystems and rehabilitate degraded land. The expected outcomes are to conserve natural ecosystems and biodiversity in the Waratah-Wynyard municipal area and increase public awareness about the value of nature reserves and the benefits of natural biodiversity conservation. The MOU outlines the public areas that the Wynyard Landcare Group can work in, Management Plans to be referred to, opportunities to review and update plans and strategies, reporting of incidents and accidents, work health and safety compliance, funding arrangements, waste disposal support and an agreed range of activities.

Key components of a Council Biodiversity Offset Mechanism are:

- » Charge enough to cover all costs per hectare including administration, research, implementation, maintenance, monitoring and contingency, and allow for cost increases.
- » Charge enough to cover costs over time.
- » Ensure that the return on accumulated funds (e.g. interest) is returned to the fund.
- » Councils can provide clear requirements of work, health and safety, permits and permission processes for working on Council land.
- » Councils can provide letters of support and offer grant partnerships.

6.1.2 Staffing and Coordination Support

Councils can:

- Have dedicated Landcare Network Coordinators as staff. This might be a natural resources management (NRM) Officer, Community Engagement Officer or Community Volunteer Officer
- Engage Landcare groups as contractors
- Support Landcare group's projects with on-ground support through Council staff and contractors



CASE STUDY 3.

Celebrating Glenorchy City Council's dedicated Landcare Network Coordinator

Glenorchy City Council's (GCC) Natural Areas Engagement Officer, regularly attends Landcare events to provide practical assistance, guidance, resources, and encouragement. This not only supports the achievement of environmental goals but also empowers the community groups to care for and connect with their local natural spaces.

The officer provides planning assistance, risk assessments, tool loans, promotional help, training, and on-site guidance—ensuring that groups feel valued and their work has a long-term impact. This enables on-the-ground action such as weeding, planting, and clean-ups, helping Council meet key environmental management objectives.

Ashleigh Carden (Natural Areas Engagement Officer, GCC) says, “Our Landcare groups are our eyes and ears in nature, often reporting declared weeds when found, dumping, pollution and other environmental matters. They are a source of inspiration, knowledge and support for our small environmental team.”

Landcare groups benefit from this relationship through access to Council land, tools, free waste removal services, training, promotional support, and insurance coverage when council staff are present. This ensures that events are safe, well-organised, and aligned with both community values and broader environmental priorities.

Image below: Ashleigh Carden, Natural Areas Engagement Officer at Glenorchy City Council, giving a planting demonstration to local Landcare groups. (Photo provided by Ashleigh Carden)



Image above: Sign celebrating joint management of Parnella Reserve with Sorell Council and Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare. (Photo supplied by Southern Beaches Landcare)

CASE STUDY 4.

Council Engagement of a Landcare Group as NRM contractors – King Island Landcare

The King Island Landcare Group (KILG) has played a vital role in environmental stewardship on King Island since 1996. Formed with representatives from local Landcare groups, the King Island Council, the Parks and Wildlife Service, King Island Beef Producers Group, the local high school and community members, KILG works to promote sustainable and integrated natural resource management across the island. Their mission supports both environmental health and economic resilience.

KILG works closely with, and is a contractor for, the King Island Council on a range of conservation initiatives, including weed control, revegetation and habitat restoration projects, particularly for species such as the endangered King Island Brown Thornbill. This partnership ensures that local environmental priorities are reflected in Council planning and decision-making, supported by funding and logistical collaboration.

In 2023, KILG released the King Island Landcare Strategy 2023–33, a ten-year road map for managing the island's key natural assets of land, biodiversity, coast, and water. Developed with input from KILG and the community with support from Cradle Coast NRM, the Strategy outlines clear goals and actions in natural resource management. It now serves as a guiding document for both the KILG and the King Island Council.

CASE STUDY 5.

Joint management of Parnella Reserve with Sorell Council and Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare

Over the past two years, Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare Inc has increased its collaboration with Sorell Council (SC). The group worked with the SC Natural Resource Management (NRM) officer to improve conservation efforts at Dodges Ferry Recreational Reserve, a key remnant woodland habitat for threatened species. Volunteers introduced a successful hand-weeding regime to reduce fire risk and enhance native vegetation, improving the past management of this area. The group's advocacy, combined with commissioning an independent Natural Values Assessment, prompted senior Council staff to engage. This resulted in Council support for the group, with staff assistance for two hours per week and improved consultation. This partnership has encouraged Southern Beaches Landcare Coastcare to expand their efforts and serves as a model for other communities aiming to improve Council engagement for natural resource management.

6.1.3 Financial and Resourcing Support

Councils can:

- Provide community grants
- Provide free use of Council facilities
- Provide tools, trees, guards, and materials
- Sponsor Landcare members membership fees (including Landcare schools)
- Sponsor Landcare group's insurance through Landcare Tasmania
- Provide a rate rebate scheme for properties with conservation covenants registered under a Part 5 Agreement or the Nature Conservation Act 2002. For example, in the south, Kingborough Council offers \$7.50/ha/year rebate with a maximum of \$750 per property, and in the north, Circular Head Council offers \$5/ha/year rate rebate with a maximum of \$500 per property
- Support community driven volunteer native plant nurseries and seed banks

6.1.4 Training and Capacity Building

Councils can:

- Provide training sessions and workshops for Landcare members on a range of topics including, but not limited to, plant and weed identification, monitoring, cultural heritage, herbicide and first aid



CASE STUDY 6.

Community Grants: Bandicoot Bunker Project in Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve

Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve Landcare Group (GHBRLG) is a network of passionate locals who hold working bees, projects and tours, welcoming all ages, to ensure the Glebe Hill Bushland Reserve is sustainably managed to protect and enhance its natural, cultural and social values.

In addition to working in the reserve, they have partnered with Howrah Primary School (also a Landcare Tasmania member) on a Bandicoot bunker project, thanks to ongoing grants from Clarence Council through the Clarence City Council's Environment and Biodiversity Grants.

Together, they have created essential habitat by planting Tasmanian native plants and building bandicoot bunkers from wood. Adam Holmstrom, founder of the GHBRLG said, "We have been inspired by the students' eager involvement in establishing bandicoot habitat and have been very happy to help with regular mulching, watering and weeding working bees."



CASE STUDY 7.

Huonville Landcare Volunteer Nursery grows free plants for community Landcare members in the Huon municipality

The Huon Valley Council's Native Plant Program supports the growth of thousands of native plants at the Huonville Landcare Volunteer Nursery. These plants are then generously gifted to the 38 Landcare groups within the municipality. The plants are primarily used for local revegetation efforts, with Council's NRM staff offering guidance and support in planning these projects.

Launched in 2023 by the Huon Valley Council and Landcare Tasmania, the Huon Valley Landcare Nursery was created to provide a sustainable supply of native plants that are grown from locally sourced seed and cuttings. It also provides a valuable social forum that increases mental health and wellbeing outcomes for the community, while building expertise in plant propagation.

Image below: Seedlings growing at a nursery.



6.1.5 Recognition and Promotion

Councils can:

- Celebrate Landcare group's achievements in newsletters and media
- Share Landcare Tasmania's website and links including 'Find Your Group' information on Council websites
- Recognise Landcare members' work and collaboration through signage

CASE STUDY 8.

Celebrating achievements in newsletters and media releases- Bandicoot Times

The Hobart City Council supports information sharing and celebration of community efforts through the quarterly publication, the *Bandicoot Times*. The newsletter covers the latest happenings in Hobart's bushland reserves and promotes a greater connection between the community and Hobart's natural areas by raising awareness of the Bushcare program. The community's contribution to the newsletter is welcomed through articles about local native plants, animals and issues that impact the bushland reserves in the Hobart municipality.

6.1.6 Support for Community-led Initiatives

Councils can:

- Collaborate on roaming, feral and stray cat management projects through establishment of by-laws and declaration of Cat Management Areas and Cat Prohibited Areas on both Council land and private land. The Cat Management Areas and Cat Prohibited Areas declaration template is available at the Tassie Cat website under *Resources for Councils*. Additionally, Councils can work with FeralCatScan to set up email notifications for community-reported cat sightings within the municipality via the FeralCatScan app.



Image above: Front page of the Bandicoot Times, Spring 2021, by the City of Hobart.



Image above: Landcare work recognition signage. (Credit: Landcare Tasmania)

6.2 Examples of Landcare Members and Groups' Support for Councils

6.2.1 Project Development

Landcare members can:

- Develop comprehensive project plans and communicate planned activities to, and collaborate with, Councils and funding partners
- Access Landcare Tasmania's Project Bank for project support
- Access a broad range of grants and funding through partnerships with Councils, Landcare Tasmania, other Landcare members and other NRM organisations

6.2.2 Representation and Participation in Local Governance

- Landcare groups can be 'network coordinating Landcare groups' that represent all Landcare members in a municipality or region.
- Landcare members can contribute to Council working groups and advisory committees. The groups then play a key role in helping the community understand and adopt council policies and strategies, thanks to their local relationships and trusted presence.



Image below: Members of the Kingston Beach Coastcare. (Credit: Barbara Marshall)

CASE STUDY 9.

Tamar NRM works with the City of Launceston, George Town, and West Tamar Councils to support Landcare groups in three municipalities.

Established in 1998, Tamar NRM is an independent not-for-profit natural resource management organisation, run by the Tamar NRM Management Committee and a number of professional staff. Core funding is provided by the three Councils of the Tamar Valley – City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town. This core funding is enhanced by additional funds from various sources, principally through applications for grant funding. Since 2000, Tamar NRM has attracted over \$7 million of funding for various projects and initiatives.

CASE STUDY 10.

Kingborough Landcare Network

The Kingborough Landcare Network (KLN), established in 2005, represents and supports all Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare and similar community groups across the municipality of Kingborough. Its purpose is to foster a strong connected Landcare community that can collectively advocate for and protect the region's natural environment.

CASE STUDY 11.

The Waratah-Wynyard Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Panel (SEAP)

SEAP is a collaborative partnership between Council and the community to inform and advise the Waratah-Wynyard Council on environmental matters. It has a revolving two year membership, with community members invited to apply with expertise in the areas of resource recovery and management that includes waste, water, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development, community adaptation and resilience, environmental education and engagement, amenity, horticultural/landscaping management (urban and/or bush), asset management, finance management and risk/insurance.

CASE STUDY 12.

The Sorell Council's Natural Resource Management/Environment Advisory Group (NRMEAG)

The purpose of this group is to provide Council with insightful advice, recommendations and to facilitate the implementation of the Sorell Council's NRM Strategy and broader environmental activities. The group focuses on key aspects such as climate change, landscape and land use management, waterways and waterbody management, and stakeholder management. The advice and recommendations are to ensure the effective implementation of the NRM Strategy and other environmental strategies and policies.

6.2.3 Environmental Management and Expertise

- Landcare groups can actively partner with Councils in managing natural areas and reserves through:
 - » Weeding and revegetation projects
 - » Fauna monitoring and Feral animal control
 - » River and catchment health through Waterwatch and Rivercare monitoring initiatives.
- Landcare groups strengthen the capacity of the local community members by sharing knowledge and providing guidance from local experts and those with long-term experience.

Image below: Mental Health Awareness Tree Planting Day in partnership with Brighton Council, Lifeline and Hobart Arbor Co, Bridgewater. (Credit: M Howard 2022)



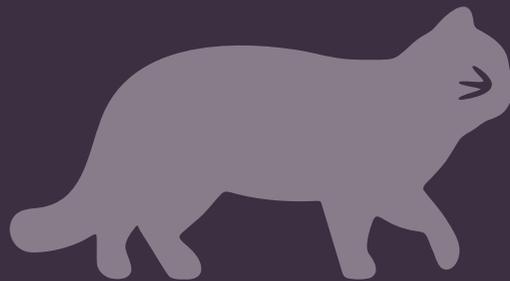
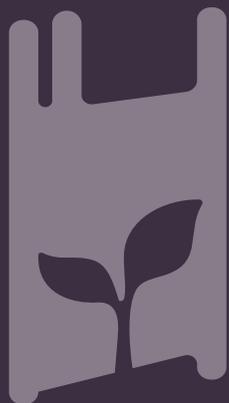
CASE STUDY 13.

Greening Brighton Project 2022

Landcare Tasmania and Brighton Council partnered early in 2021 with a shared vision to increase community participation in Landcare activities, create more Landcare groups in the municipality, and improve the sense of place, confidence and mental health of community members.

In the first half of 2022, Brighton Council provided funding for Landcare Tasmania to organise two community events and six monthly working bees with the Bridgewater Foreshore Landcare Group to build group capacity so at the conclusion of the project, it can be self-managed and run.

The working bees were held monthly on a Saturday at the Bridgewater Foreshore, focussing on rubbish pick-up and weed removal (blackberries, catonias, boxthorn, willow, hawthorn). There was also a planting event run by Brighton Council and Landcare Tasmania at Bridgewater Foreshore/ Botanic Institute for National Tree Day.



CASE STUDY 14.

West Tamar Landcare and Preservation Bay – Feral Cat Project

The Lower West Tamar Cat Management Project is a community-led initiative tackling the impacts of feral and stray cats in Tasmania’s Kelso, Greens Beach, and Clarence Point areas. Spearheaded by the West Tamar Landcare Group and the Northern Area Advisory Group, the project received initial funding from the Federal government’s Communities Environment Program, and then from the West Tamar Council. Additionally, West Tamar Council provided in-kind support through media and funding the mail-out of the group’s newsletter to all residents within the municipality. The Council also funded microchips and organised a microchipping day for the wider community.

This support laid the foundation for an ongoing conservation effort. The project area now spans 6,500 hectares at the mouth of the kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary and is bordered by coastline and national park forests. These natural barriers help reduce the migration of feral cats from surrounding areas, making the Lower West Tamar a strategically viable location for feral cat management.

One of the key lessons learned from this project is that involving local government, MPs, and state agencies in cat management is essential for the long-term success of cat trapping programs. These authorities are respected by the community, which tends to follow their guidance which is an important factor in ensuring the lasting impact of the project.

“We have been extremely lucky to have solid and continuing support from West Tamar Council. We have benefitted from strong support from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.”

(West Tamar Landcare Group, 2025)

CASE STUDY 15.

Landcare groups contributing to Waterwatch river care projects and monitoring UHWMG

The Upper Huon Wildlife Monitoring Group (UHWMG) supports landholders and the wider community in the Huon Valley municipality interested in citizen science based ecological monitoring. The group's current main activity is coordinating 'Waterwatch' water quality monitoring, both physio-chemical and waterbug monitoring, to track water quality over time in the Huon Valley.

The Huon Valley Council supports the groups activities through the provision of Waterwatch monitoring equipment, NRM grants and by partnering in successful external grant applications.

CASE STUDY 16.

The North West Bay River Action Group (RAG)

RAG was established following a review of the North West Bay River Catchment Management and Action Plan (2021–23), which highlighted strong community support for its update. The RAG brings together management authorities and community groups, including Landcare groups within the catchment, recognising them as key stakeholders and providing a platform for community input into Council decisions on public land and resource management. As part of this process, Landcare Tasmania and Landcare groups had the opportunity to review the implementation plan to assess how their priorities and capacity aligned with the Council's proposed actions. The review showed that many existing Landcare group activities were already contributing to the plan's intended outcomes.

6.2.4 Landscape-wide and Community Impact

- Landcare groups work across public and private land including coasts, farms, bushland, reserves and towns. Some operate as roaming groups, supporting projects across municipalities and assisting other Landcare groups.

CASE STUDY 17.

Roaming Groups that support Landcare projects across the State

The Tasmanian Student Landcare Association is unique among both Landcare groups and university societies. Facilitated by both a Landcare Tasmania membership and Tasmanian Student University Association affiliation, they roam around the state, helping other groups with their restoration and conservation projects. Their primary focus is creating positive experiences for young people in Landcare and the work itself is secondary. Therein lies their value.

Feedback from many of their ongoing working relationships is that the Tasmanian Student Landcare Association helps motivate and legitimise Landcare work. Anyone who has done any amount of on-ground work knows that it's an uphill battle. So, when a group of young students drives half a day across the state to camp out in rough weather, to bush bash, to plant trees, and to cut and paste weeds, you know it must be worth doing.

6.3 Examples of Landcare Tasmania's Support for Both Members and Councils

Landcare Tasmania's website has a wealth of resources, information and support. Below are our key programs:



6.3.1 Landcare Leadership Program

Landcare Tasmania supports members with the resources and guidance to coordinate their volunteers and carry out their on-ground projects. This is Landcare Tasmania's core program.



6.3.4 Landscape Restoration Program

Landcare Tasmania brings members and the wider community together to tackle local issues at a landscape scale (municipalities, catchments and sub-catchments) to build resilient communities and resilient landscapes.



6.3.2 Community Outreach Program

Landcare Tasmania facilitates the introduction of new people to Landcare and empowers them with skills and knowledge sharing, training and education workshops.



6.3.5 Advocacy Program

Landcare Tasmania provides a collective voice for the Landcare community in Tasmania. Landcare Tasmania raises the profile of community Landcare in the media, and with all levels of government, to get more support for our members. We run community awareness campaigns around issues important to community Landcare.

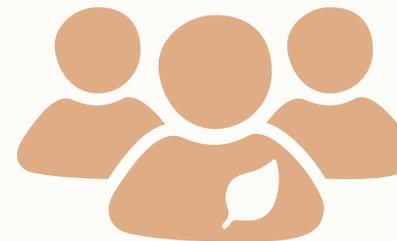


6.3.3 Education Program

Landcare Tasmania strengthens ties between schools, TAFE, the University of Tasmania, and local Landcarers.

7. Getting Started

Connecting with your Council or local Landcare group and connecting with support from Landcare Tasmania



7.1 Connect with Your Local Landcare Group or Council Contact

- Use the 'Find a Group' tool on Landcare Tasmania's website to locate local Landcare groups, learn about their activities, and find key contacts.
- If you're a Landcare group, identify the right Council contact, such as an NRM Officer, Volunteer Coordinator or Community Officer. Landcare Tasmania can help facilitate this connection.
- Interested in starting your own group? Landcare Tasmania offers templates and guidance on governance, incorporation, safety, action planning, and insurance.

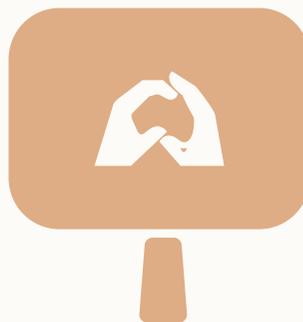


Image right: Wildcare Friends of the Henty Landcare group.
(Credit: Landcare Tasmania)

7.2 Become a Member

Encourage individuals, schools, organisations, and community groups to join as individual or associate members to access the Landcare network.

Membership benefits include:

- Access to the Members Toolbox with tailored resources and support
- Use of the Project Bank for submitting and funding project proposals
- Discounted materials for tree planting
- Equipment loans (wildlife cameras, personal locator beacons (PLBs), binoculars, sound recorders and more)
- Support with governance, administration, project planning, volunteer recruitment and leadership succession
- Insurance cover (via the State Government's Landcare Assistance Program grant)
- Auspicing and letters of support for grant applications
- Priority access to training and events
- Access to a range of useful resources from The Reading Room

The Tasmanian Landcare Fund (TLF) is a tax-deductible public fund that directly supports Landcare members environmental projects across the state.



7.3 Use the Project Bank to Develop and Fund Joint Initiatives

The Project Bank is a collection of Landcare projects and ideas proposed by Landcare Tasmania's members that require funding. Landcare Tasmania uses it as a tool for understanding what our members need, promoting our members' ideas and advocating for external funding and partnerships to support them.

Projects can be viewed on a Project Bank Map which is useful for identifying common themes and geographical clusters of member projects. This helps Landcare Tasmania address individual issues at larger scales by informing the development of the Landscape Restoration, Community Outreach, Advocacy and Education Programs.

Here's how it works:

- Landcare members can submit project ideas through the online Project Bank form. Community Landcare projects might address:
 - » Environmental degradation
 - » Threats to existing natural values
 - » Biodiversity loss
 - » Waste and resource inefficiencies
 - » Sustainable practices in agriculture and natural resource management
 - » Community stewardship of natural values
 - » Education, awareness, advocacy, and connection to nature and food
 - » Training and leadership
- Councils can:
 - » View mapped proposals in their municipality
 - » Identify opportunities for collaboration and co-funding
 - » Support local groups in submitting full project plans and letters of support when funding becomes available

7.4 Get Involved with Landcare Tasmania

- Support or collaborate with Landcare Tasmania to co-host training sessions to build the capacity of the wider community. This builds the ability to undertake Landcare activities and projects through training, upskilling and knowledge sharing opportunities. Members can go to Landcare Tasmania's website to register their interest in a particular learning topic and be notified when opportunities arise. Councils and groups can be contacted to provide information on what topics are the highest requested within their municipality.
- Promote Landcare Tasmania's events, including those listed in the 2025 Outreach Event Calendar and the Community Events Calendar, through Council and Landcare groups channels, social media and newsletters, or participate directly to strengthen community ties.
- Encourage individual and corporate volunteering by sharing opportunities with residents and local businesses. Collaborate on corporate volunteering days to address specific environmental projects within the municipality.
- Support by donating to the Tasmanian Landcare Fund. Donations help Landcare Tasmania provide vital services and grants for projects driven by the community.



7.5 Develop Strong Partnerships

- Landcare Tasmania can help raise the profile of successful collaborations with Councils and celebrate achievements through the news and media page on the website as well as their regular e-newsletter, The Dirty Hands.
- Establish a formal Partnership Agreement (MOU) with Landcare Tasmania
- Strengthen connections and collaboration through:
 - » Networking events
 - » Joint development of landscape-scale grant projects including Catchment Action Plans
 - » Co-creation of best-practice resources with communities and stakeholders.

7.6 Reporting and Advocacy

- Landcare Tasmania can provide municipality-level data on volunteer hours and group activity to support grant applications and Council's budget planning.
- Landcare Tasmania can run advocacy and awareness campaigns, with all levels of government, on important issues to Landcare members eg. rodenticide use and community cat management.

CASE STUDY 18.

Networking Events in 2025

With the goal of strengthening connections, identifying regional and local priorities, and fostering collaboration, Landcare Tasmania hosts networking events across the state.

These events offer a valuable opportunity for Landcare groups, individual members, Landcare Tasmania staff, council natural resource management teams, and guest speakers to come together and explore ways to work jointly on priority projects, events, and training initiatives within their local area.

By improving communication and coordination between Landcare members and natural resource management organisations, these networking events often lead to the development of collaborative projects submitted to Landcare Tasmania's Project Bank.

Image below: Enthusiastic participants at the Launceston, Dorset and George Town networking event in 2025. (Credit: Landcare Tasmania)



CASE STUDY 19.

Urban Rivers and Catchment Project – Sorell Rivulet Restoration with Landcare Tasmania, Sorell Landcare, NRM South and Sorell Council

In 2024, Landcare Tasmania and Sorell Landcare partnered in a successful grant application with Sorell Council and NRM South for the Department of Climate Change Energy and Water Urban Rivers and Catchment Grant's program. The resulting project titled 'Rivers to Ramsar: Improving Catchment and Wetland Health at Orielson Lagoon' project will undertake habitat connectivity and targeted water quality improvement activities on public and private land in three waterways which source Orielson Lagoon, part of the Pittwater Orielson Lagoon Ramsar site and nature reserve. The strength of this successful application for \$560,000 over four years was in the collaboration between the partners, with Sorell Landcare playing a crucial role in on-going support, buy-in and continuity of the project beyond the timeframe of the grant funding.



8. Final Comments

Strong positive partnerships between Councils and Landcare groups are essential to achieving lasting environmental and community outcomes across Tasmania. This guide highlights the many ways collaboration can be fostered, with practical examples, shared success stories, and a range of ways Landcare Tasmania can support these relationships. Whether you're just starting out or looking to strengthen existing partnerships, Landcare Tasmania hopes this resource empowers you to connect, collaborate, and take action. Together, we can build more resilient communities and healthier landscapes for future generations.



Image above: Planting at Baldocks Road (Credit: Sasha Lev)

9. Council Landcare Support Survey Results

Below is a summary of some of the data collected in the Landcare Tasmania Council Landcare Support Survey 2025. It has been split up into six key themes.

9.1 Communication

Figure 3. Question: In the past 5 years has your Council.. (n17)

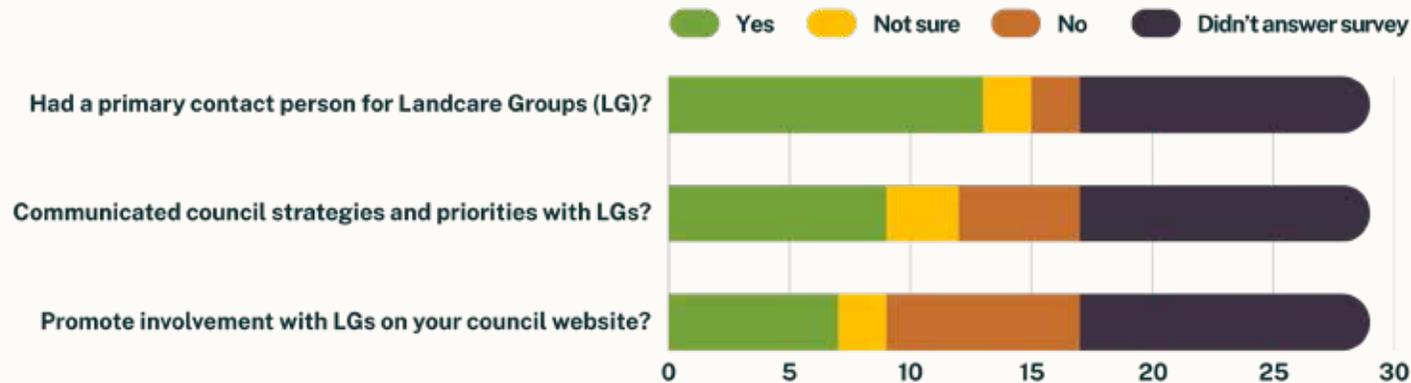
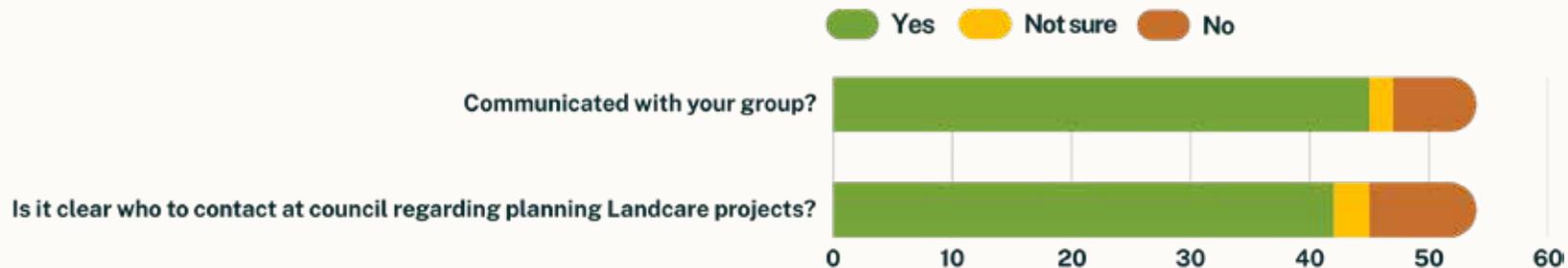


Figure 4. Question: In the past 5 years has your Council..(n54)



9.2 Collaboration

Figure 5. Question: In the past 5 years has your Council.. (n17)

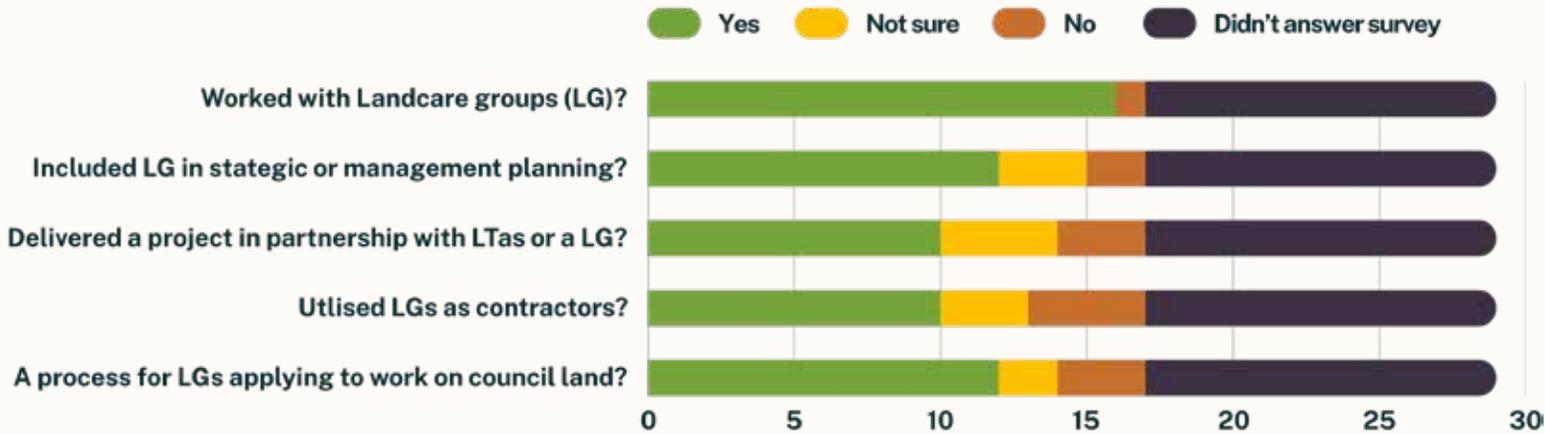
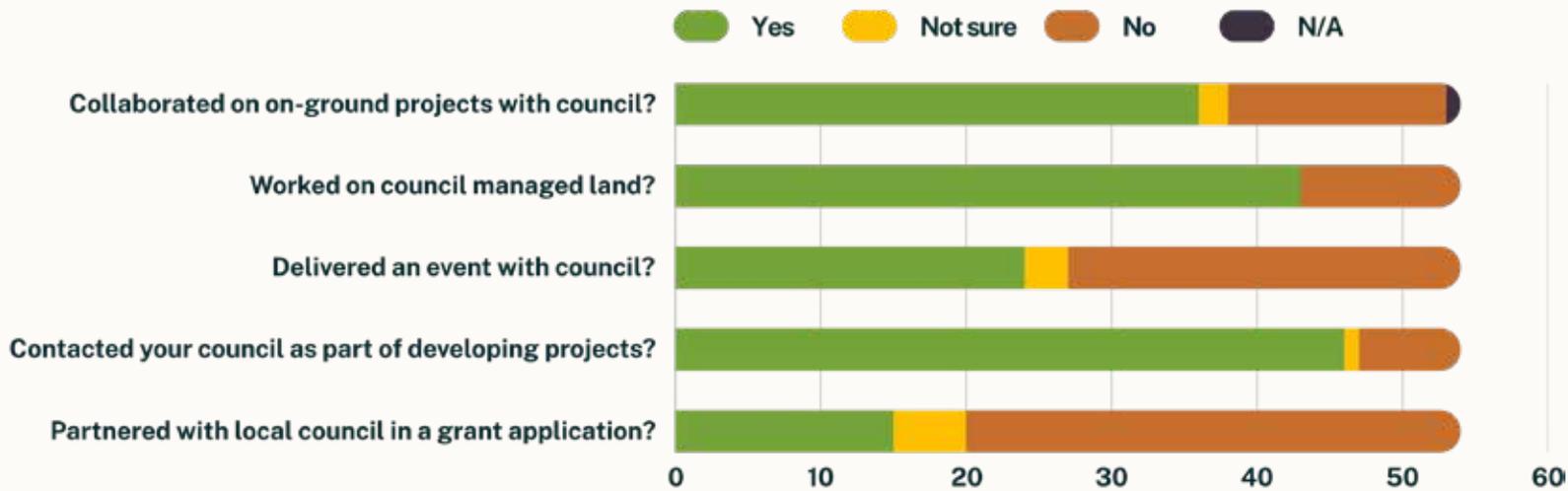


Figure 6. Question: In the past 5 years has your Landcare group.. (n54)



9.3 Awareness

Figure 7. Question: In the past 5 years has your Council .. (n17)

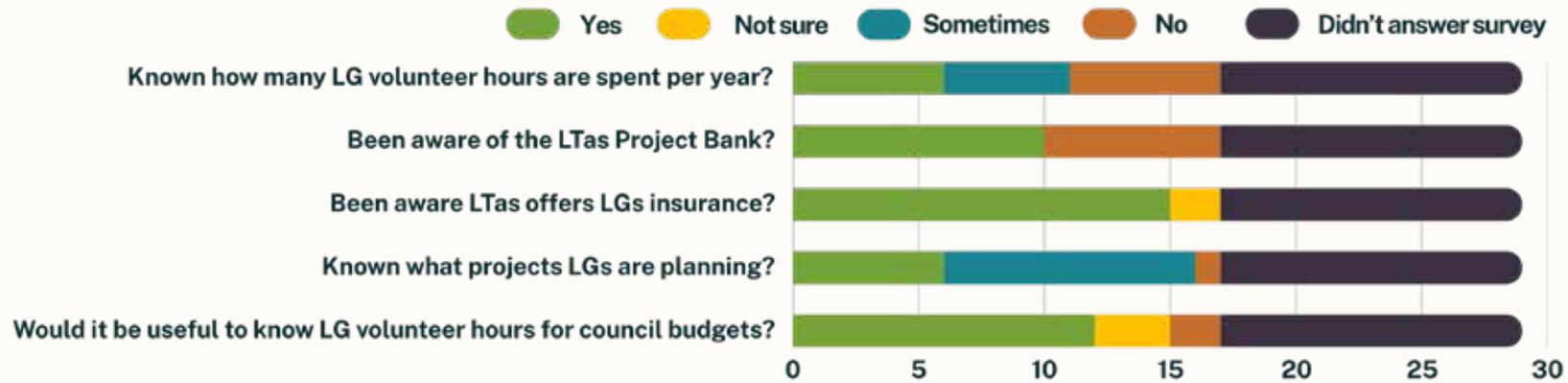


Image right: Wildcare Friends of the Henty Landcare group. (Credit: Landcare Tasmania)

9.4 Support

Figure 8. Question: In the past 5 years has your Council .. (n17)

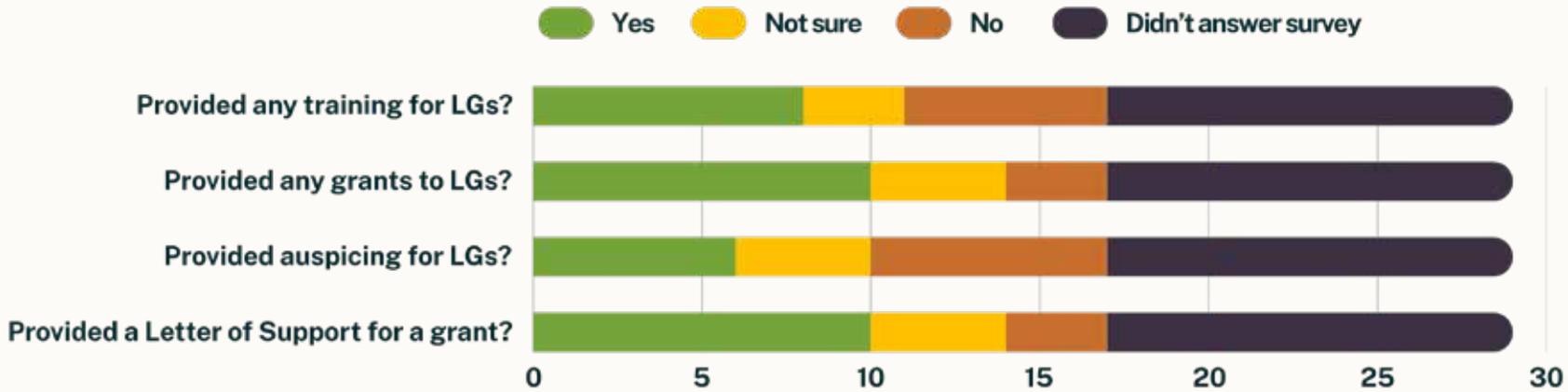
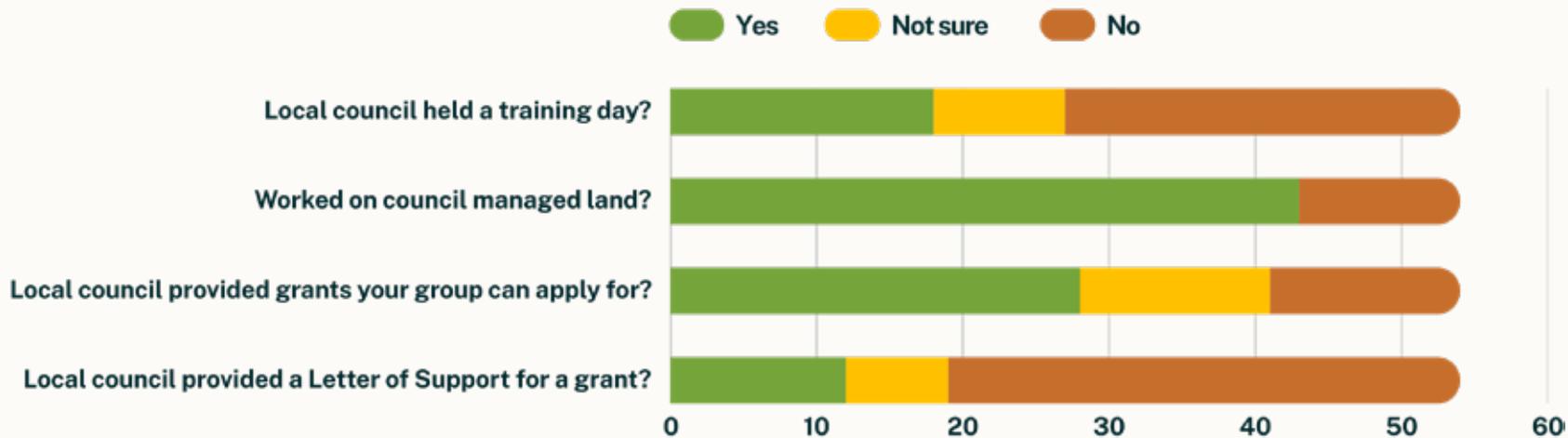
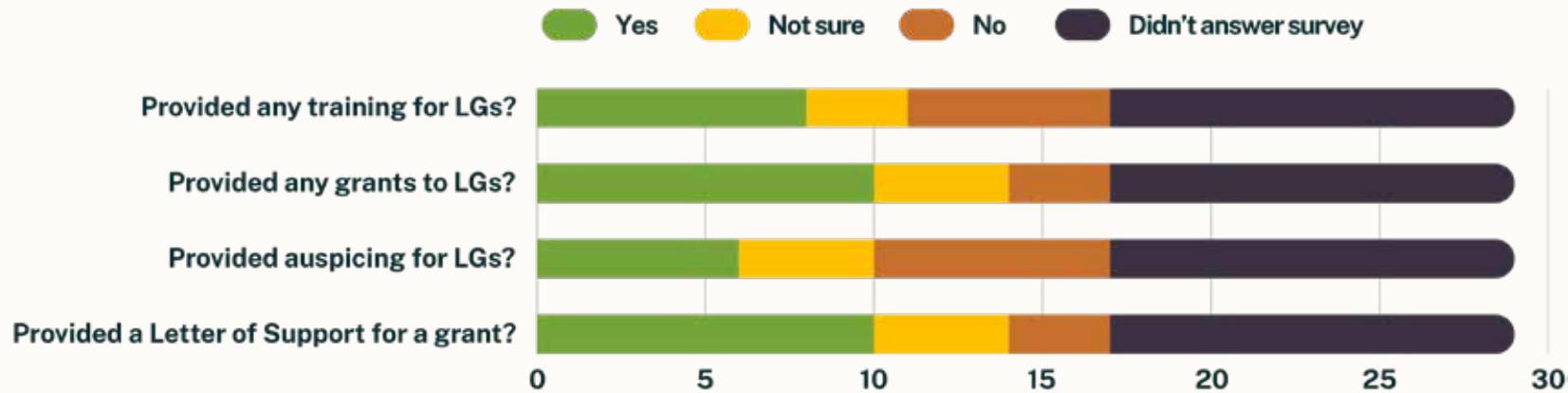


Figure 9. Question: In the past 5 years has your Landcare Group.. (n54)



9.5 Conservation

Figure 10. Question: In the past 5 years has your Council .. (n17)



9.6 Strategic Involvement

Figure 11. Question: In the past 5 years has Landcare Group.. (n54)



10. Handy Links

Landcare Tasmania and Council partnerships:

https://www.landcaretas.org.au/partnerships_council

Find a Landcare Group:

https://www.landcaretas.org.au/directory_of_groups

Find a Landcare Group event near you:

<https://www.landcaretas.org.au/events>

Find Landcare member projects happening near you, through the Project Bank:

https://www.landcaretas.org.au/eoi_map

Landcare Tasmania's Projects:

<https://www.landcaretas.org.au/projects>

Kingborough Council Part 5 Agreement information:

https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NEW-Application-Form-fillable-Lodgement-of-Part-5-Agreement-for-Signing-Sealing_V2.pdf

Kingborough Council's Biodiversity Offset Policy:

<https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Biodiversity-Offset-Policy-v2.1-approved-Nov-2023.pdf>

Tasmanian Council Authority's Biodiversity Offset Guidelines 2013:

https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Biodiversity-Offset-Guidelines_Final_April2013.pdf

Kingborough Environmental Fund Information:

<https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/services/20844-2/kingborough-environmental-fund/>

Guidelines for the Expenditure of the Kingborough Environmental Fund:

https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Guidelines-for-Expenditure-of-the-Kingborough-Environmental-Fund_Edit_07012021_03.pdf

To register you land as a cat management area and cat prohibited area find the TassieCat template here:

<https://www.tassiecat.com.au/resources-for-councils>

Landcare Tasmania's Decision Guide for Feral and Stray Cat Management 2025:

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/landcaretas/pages/5378/attachments/original/1744764995/Decision_guide_for_stray_and_feral_cat_management_Final_April_2025.pdf?1744764995

11. References

- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2025) aihw.health.gov.au
- Break O'Day (2020) Conservation Covenant Support Policy
- Guidelines for the Expenditure of the Kingborough Environmental Fund
- Kingborough Council Offset Policy
- Kingborough Environmental Fund
- Kingborough (2024) Rate Rebate for Conservation covenant Policy 3.9
- KPMG (2021) Building Resilience in Local Communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare 2021
- Landcare Australia (2021) Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare.
- Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) (2024) Submission enquiry into local government sustainability
- Tasmanian Council Authority's Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (2013)
- The Centre of Volunteering (2025) Volunteer calculator
- The State of the Environment Report (2024) The Tasmanian Planning Commission
- University of Tasmania (2024) Funding Local Government in the Future



Image above: Meander Field Trip.
(Credit: Nick Hanson)



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