



Landcare site planning

Landcare Fact Sheet No.1

Before commencing a Landcare Project, your group will need an Agreed Action Plan. Having an up-to-date and well-communicated plan for Landcare works on your site is essential to make the most of your efforts and is a requirement for gaining permission to work on Council managed land. The Landcare Resource Centre can help your group develop an Action Plan which contains the agreed focus areas for work i.e. target weeds, areas of work and what methods should be used.

Certain principles can assist you when developing, updating and using Action Plans and these are described here for your reference.

Plan using the Bradley Method

In the 1960 and 70s, sisters Joan and Eileen Bradley developed what is now known as the 'Bradley Method' of bush regeneration, based on their experience working in bushlands areas near Sydney. The Bradley Method consists of three key principles applicable to all Landcare sites:

1. Work from good to bad. Secure the best areas first. They are the easiest to work with and will give the best results. They are the core areas that can then be expanded.
2. Minimise disturbance to the natural conditions (e.g. minimise soil disturbance and off-target damage).
3. Don't overclear - let the regeneration of the bush set the pace of clearance.

These methods are further detailed in Joan Bradley's book 'Bringing Back the Bush' which is available at the Landcare Resource Centre.

Right: Overclearing of canopy weeds can result in new weeds quickly filling open space (e.g. Bitou). This will require significant follow up weeding. The best approach is to weed new areas only at the rate that follow-up weeding can match



Assess your site for values and threats

Prior to working on your site it is important to identify key values you wish to protect, for example:

- Areas of habitat (look for hollow bearing trees, logs, good ground cover and leaf litter, fruiting and flowering plants)
- Areas of water and areas that protect water quality (vegetated creek edges, natural drainage paths)
- Special plants and communities (Threatened species, Endangered Ecological Communities)

When looking at threats consider:

- Weeds (See Factsheet 2 for information on which weeds to target)
- Pollution (i.e. from upstream, which is also a source of new weeds)
- Vandalism
- Community use of the area and different community perceptions of the purpose of the area (in some instances this can be a threat to protecting ecological values, that needs to be managed)

Once the values and threats are known it will be easier to decide on your aims and plan of works.

The LRC Team Leader Training manual has further resources to assist you when developing an Agreed Action Plan, including templates and worksheets.

Remember all Landcare projects must obtain landholder permission and an Agreed Action Plan in the first instance.

References and Further Information

Australian Association of Bush Regeneration www.aabr.org.au

Bradley, J (1988) Bringing back the Bush. The Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration. Reed New Holland

Buchanan, R. (2009) Restoring Natural Areas in Australia TOCAL (NSW)



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