



# 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Nominee: Seqwater, QLD**

**Category: Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award**

Seqwater collaborates with six local Landcare groups to improve catchment water quality on private agricultural properties in South East Queensland. The Seqwater Source Protection Partnership Program (SPPP) assists each local Landcare organisation in implementing sustainable work plans, resulting in measurable improvements in catchment condition.

The SPPP has facilitated 40 kilometres of waterway riparian weed control, 47 new off-stream livestock watering points, the planting of 15,500 trees, 15 kilometres of fencing, and the implementation of non-waterway weed control over 35 hectares.

Investment has grown from \$200,000 per annum for two partners in 2015-16, to a commitment of approximately \$1.8 million for six partnerships in 2016-17. These partners are Seqwater, the Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group, the Maroochy Landcare Group and Pine Rivers Catchment Association, the Mary River Catchment Coordination Committee, Ecolaboration, and Healthy Land and Water.

By providing improved job security for local Landcare group staff via multi-year funding arrangements, the partnership model overcomes continuity issues created by funding insecurity and traditional grant-based funding models. Funding grew to \$3.6 million for 15 projects in 2017-18 and will further increase to over \$4 million in 2018-19. The program continues to strengthen community engagement by providing job security for Landcare group staff already embedded with trust based relationships in their communities. Given that water supply assets are intergenerational and the need to protect vital catchments is an ongoing task, the SPPP ensures grass-roots groups and their valuable staff are involved in leading local projects.

Each partner's annual implementation plan utilises Seqwater's knowledge of catchments based on risk to drinking-water quality, and combines it with the local Group's investment in and understanding of individual landholders. Officers within Seqwater and local councils collaborate in planning based on each group's focus area, using information from Seqwater's spatial, water quality, environmental, legal and community-relations teams to ensure an evidence-based approach to prioritised projects.

The plans enable local groups to protect urban water sources while applying best practice natural resource management. They also acknowledge the commercial imperative, with the relationship between sustainable practice and increased profitability in the dairy industry recently demonstrated by Maroochy Landcare's FarmWELL program.

Seqwater recognises that it owns less than five percent of the land on which the region relies for raw water, and that working effectively with private landholders to address risks to water supply is therefore vital. By developing long term arrangements and budget commitments, Seqwater can now engage in multi-year programs to provide funding security for partners.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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Landcare is a grassroots movement that harnesses individuals and groups to protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment and its productivity. Groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities. To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2018 National Landcare finalists, visit [www.landcareaustralia.org.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au)

## Ends

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## Web Summary

Seqwater collaborates with six local groups to improve catchment water quality on private agricultural properties in South East Queensland. The Seqwater Source Protection Partnership Program (SPPP) has facilitated 40 kilometre of waterway riparian weed control, 47 new off-stream livestock watering points, the planting of 15,500 trees, 15 kilometre of fencing, and the implementation of non-waterway weed control over 35 hectares. Each partner's annual implementation plan utilises Seqwater's knowledge of catchments based on risk to drinking water quality, and combines it with the local Group's understanding of individual landholders. By providing improved job security for local Group staff via multi-year funding arrangements, the partnership model overcomes continuity issues created by funding insecurity and traditional grant-based funding models.

## Pull-out quote:

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