



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Kingborough Council, TAS

Category: Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award

Kingborough Council supports 24 Landcare groups in its municipality, covering group insurance costs and providing access to Corrective Services TAS work groups and council weed crews. Kingborough Council has also entered into a partnership with Landcare Tasmania – the first council in Tasmania to do so.

Kingborough Council undertakes joint initiatives to build skills across groups, providing training workshops for group members and participating in Landcare Tasmania's member outreach barbeques. Council has also arranged for shared access to group information through Landcare Tasmania's database, ensuring that organisations can share their experiences. In addition, Council facilitates an annual get-together for all members of Landcare Groups within the municipality.

Kingborough Council is the only council that pays for Landcare Group insurance through Landcare Tasmania's bulk insurance program. The Council provides resources to tackle projects that may be beyond the scope of smaller groups, as well as training for group convenors. Participants learn a variety of skills, from brush-cutter training and safe use of chemicals to ChemCert certification and first aid. All groups are also provided with an electronic tag, allowing for free disposal of rubbish and green waste at the municipal waste transfer station.

Kingborough Council grows plants for group planting projects in the council nursery and provides plant guards, stakes and weed mats for participants. Council representatives regularly attend group annual general meetings to foster relationships, and Council has a dedicated officer who is available to provide technical advice and source materials for landowners and groups as required.

Kingborough Council also facilitates work for the Department of Justice's Corrective Service Orders program, partnering work-order teams with Landcare groups to provide extra manpower on the ground. These teams have undertaken planting preparation by spreading mulch and digging holes, and revegetation maintenance by weeding around revegetation spots. They've also assisted by removing bags and stakes as required, picking up rubbish, and brush-cutting and weed removal.

Kingborough Council also facilitates an annual group Convenors mini conference where convenors and other key group members come together for a day to learn and share skills that would not normally be included in general WHS programs. Topics covered to date have included Raptor identification in the field, monitoring techniques, changing culture within community groups, plant identification, bushfire risk and mitigation, health related topics and Aboriginal artefact identification. These discussions have often been led by the top representatives in their field, which demonstrates a genuine commitment to not only upskilling volunteers, but also recognising the contribution they make to the community. These days are offered free to participants and a number of seats are also made available to neighbouring municipalities and public land managers to ensure cross pollination of ideas and information.

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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Council has also facilitated partnerships between businesses and Landcare groups so that the groups benefit from additional on-ground resourcing, and employees of the businesses are exposed to Landcare activities, in the hope they might pursue them outside of work. The businesses themselves are able to encourage volunteering as part of their employee wellness programs. Recent partnerships have seen Vodafone assist in the Coffee Creek area, and Retirements Benefits Fund assist the Tramway Hill Landcare Group.

Council also facilitates partnerships between Landcare groups and local schools, through one-off working bees or long-term projects in which students are able to work riparian areas on Department of Education land.

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

Ends

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Web Summary

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Pull-out quote:

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