



# 2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

**Nominee: The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group Inc, QLD**

**Category: Australian Government Excellence in Sustainable Farm Practices Award**

The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG) was founded in 1991 to improve water quality in the Baroon Pocket Dam, the most important source of water for the Sunshine Coast. Today 34 farms covering 1,961 hectares participate in the LBCCG's Agricultural, Landslide, Weed Control and Dairy Programs. These four programs have improved productivity for landowners while delivering broader environmental benefits across the catchment.

Historical scepticism of environmental groups by farmers was just one obstacle faced by the LBCCG in instituting these programs. The Group won landowner trust by building individual relationships, and by cultivating mutually beneficial relationships with stakeholders such as Seqwater and Sunshine Coast Council. Initiatives such as the Dairy Discussion Group (DDG) have provided a forum for farmers to share their knowledge. The DDG has grown to involve key family members and farm workers, acknowledging the importance of family succession in sustainable farming, and events are held on local properties on a rotational basis, fostering stronger collaboration.

Sustainable practices implemented by the LBCCG's four programs have included fencing and revegetation of riparian zones; the planting of 7,300 trees on 9.5 hectares of landslip; the repair of existing watering points and the installation of alternative ones; erosion and land instability repair; the installation of sustainable stream crossings; the removal of invasive weed species; and upgrades to effluent systems, feed pads and drainage.

Key to LBCCG's mission was convincing landowners that productivity and sustainability were not mutually exclusive. Rehabilitating laneways on dairy farms improves water quality by reducing erosion while also improving livestock movement and cattle hygiene, which enhances milk quality. Likewise, planting local hoop and bunya pines diminishes the chance of landslides while allowing continued grazing, so productivity doesn't suffer.

Similarly, LBCCG's Dairy Program works with seven farms to consolidate productivity – via new effluent management and reuse systems, dairy apron concreting, and livestock laneway rehabilitation – while also reducing risks to water quality.

The LBCCG has also worked with academics from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to support on-farm projects. QUT's ongoing monitoring of planting on landslip sites has helped raise awareness of local erosion issues. Knowledge sharing has also been bolstered by the formation of a Dairy Discussion Group (DDG), a forum for farmers to share their experiences. The DDG has involved key family and farm workers, acknowledging the importance of succession in long-term sustainable farming. Today, DDG events attract participants from around 15 dairy farms, held on local properties on a rotational basis to foster stronger collaboration in an informal setting.

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

For further information, photographs or interviews contact:

Naomi Straw  
Landcare Australia  
[naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:naomi.straw@landcareaustralia.com.au)  
02 8440 8823

Peter Stevens  
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group and Peter Stevens  
[peter@arley.net.au](mailto:peter@arley.net.au)  
07 5435 2183

## Web Summary

Founded in 1991 to improve water quality in the Baroon Pocket Dam, the most important source of water for the Sunshine Coast, The Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group (LBCCG) supports 34 farms covering 1,961 hectares. The LBCCG's Agricultural, Landslide, Weed Control and Dairy Programs have improved productivity for landowners while delivering broader environmental benefits. Sustainable practices implemented by the LBCCG's programs have included fencing and revegetation of riparian zones, the installation of alternate livestock watering points and sustainable stream crossings, erosion and land instability repair, the removal of invasive weed species, and upgrades to effluent systems, feed pads and drainage.

## Pull-out quote:

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