



National
Landcare
Network

National Landcare Network
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Hon Tony Abbott, Prime Minister
Hon Barnaby Joyce, Minister for Agriculture
Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

16 April 2012

Agricultural.Competitiveness@pmc.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister Abbott and Minister Joyce

re: NLN submission to the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper

It is with pleasure that the National Landcare Network makes this submission to the development of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. NLN welcomes the initiative, and strongly supports the White Paper's intention to create a stronger, more profitable agricultural sector in Australia.

The National Landcare Network is the federation of Australia's State and Territory Landcare representative organisations, which advocate for and represent the more than 5000 Landcare Groups and more than half a million Landcare Group members across Australia.

NLN acknowledges the support towards strengthening these Landcare organisations embodied in the Australian Government's new National Landcare Programme.

In regional communities, farmer-driven and farming-focussed Landcare Groups are the predominant constituency of these State and Territory organisations. Over the 25 years (yes, it's our anniversary year) since Landcare was instigated as a partnership between the farming community and the Australian Government, it has achieved great success in improving the profitability of farm businesses and the productivity of farmland by reversing the spread of land degradation, by promoting and expediting the adoption of improved farming practices, and by building the skills and resilience – the social capital - of the farming community.

The Landcare community awaits with great anticipation the release of the White Paper, so that this contribution to Australia's farming future can be enhanced and secured.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Walker'.

DAVID WALKER

CHAIR

NATIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK