



Landcare Tasmania Members Council - Information Pack 2017

What is Landcare Tasmania?

Landcare Tasmania is the peak membership body that represents, strengthens, supports and grows Tasmania's community Landcare movement to improve the health of our natural and productive landscapes. Landcare Tasmania provides an independent, representative voice for around 200 community Landcare groups, plus individual members. Our members include Landcare, Bushcare, Wildcare and 'Friends of' groups and other groups whose aim is to improve the health of our natural and working landscapes.

Our mission is to:

- Promote community Landcare
- Connect people and organisations with an interest in Landcare
- Support landcarers with administration, information and funding
- Represent community Landcare as an advocacy body
- Establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Tasmanian Landcare Fund for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects/purposes of Landcare Tasmania

Landcare Tasmania is an incorporated Not for Profit organisation registered under the *Associations Incorporations Act 1964 (Tasmania)*. We are a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and have Deductible Gift Recipient status for operation of the tax-deductible Tasmanian Landcare Fund.

Changes to be considered at AGM

This year's AGM will consider changes to the Constitution to provide for a:

- Skills-based Board to be responsible for the proper management of the affairs of Landcare Tasmania; and
- Members Council elected as representatives of the members.

The changes are being introduced to meet the increasing regulation and expectations of management of not-for-profit organisations, address risk to members inherent in the current governance arrangements, and to provide a clearer separation of the means by which representation and management are to be effectively delivered.

Role of the Members Council

The Annual General Meeting of members elects a Members Council whose functions are:

- (i) providing a forum for Members to discuss matters of strategic direction and Landcare policy; and
- (ii) providing advice to the Board and making recommendations to the Board on matters of strategic direction and Landcare policy; and
- (iii) .implementing, or assisting in and/or facilitating the implementation of policies, strategies and projects as approved by the Board.

Members Council election process

The Members Council will consist of a minimum of eight members of Landcare Tasmania. At least one member is required to be elected from each telephone region, i.e. 62..., 63... and 64... prefixes, subject to a nomination being received from the region.

The proposed new Constitution provides that the Board may increase the size of the Members Council by specifying its size in By-laws. As the intention is for Landcare Tasmania to increase engagement with and representation of members, any valid nominations in excess of the minimum of eight will be considered by the Board at its first meeting and after having adopted a By-law on the size of the Members Council.

Nominations for election as members of the Members Council of the Association must be made in writing, signed by one care group member and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. Nominations must be received by the Public Officer at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

A secret ballot to elect members of the Members Council will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting each year. Each care group member present at the Annual General Meeting will have one vote in the ballot to elect the Members Council. Individuals are elected to the Members Council if they receive more than 50 per cent of the vote of care group members present and eligible to vote.

Who should nominate

Applicants must be an individual Landcare Tasmania member or a member of a community care group which is a current member of Landcare Tasmania, and should have a broad understanding of community Landcare in Tasmania. Nominees will be self-motivated and ideally have skills, knowledge or experience in one or more of the following areas: Landcare, sustainable agriculture,

Coastcare, natural resource management, indigenous engagement, environmental education, weed control, revegetation, project planning or volunteering, facilitation and advocacy.

What does being on the Members Council involve?

It is expected that Landcare Tasmania Members Council members commit to:

- Attendance and participation in meetings of the Council. At least three meetings are required to be held each year but may be more. Meetings are face to face in locations across the state. These meetings are full day meetings and will involve travel.
- Participation in ad hoc working groups and sub-committees.
- Participation in events, field days, forums and consultations organised by Landcare Tasmania.
- Be available to be contacted by members, especially those in your general area.
- Assist in the implementation of Landcare Tasmania projects and policies.

What are the responsibilities of Members Council members?

Be properly prepared for meetings. Papers for meetings are circulated in advance by email. It is the responsibility of members to read papers in advance and to ensure they are well informed for participation in decisions (e.g. by contacting other Council members).

Council members may be asked to undertake specific tasks between meetings. Members should note any tasks agreed by them, and ensure they are carried out in a timely manner.

Members are encouraged to discuss agenda items for meetings with other members, and to be proactive in contributing agenda items for discussion and proposals for resolution.

Landcare Tasmania has also recently introduced a greater emphasis on engagement with its members. Council members are expected to take responsibility for some contact with members in their area.

Council members are also responsible for submitting apologies for any meeting they cannot attend. The position on the Members Council of a member who misses three consecutive meetings without leave may become vacant.

The Landcare Tasmania Members Council is not a management committee. Its primary function is to represent the interest of members and to provide information, guidance and advice to the Board.

Members Council members should not interfere with day to day operations and have no authority to instruct staff.

Members Council members are also responsible for ensuring they do not, unless authorised in advance:

- Incur any expenditure on behalf of Landcare Tasmania that has not been specifically approved in advance by the Executive Officer.
- Make public statements on behalf of or in the name of Landcare Tasmania.
- Sign any documents on behalf of or in the name of Landcare Tasmania.

- Purport to be a representative of Landcare Tasmania in forums, committees, working groups or the like.

In the case of any doubt on the above matters Council members should contact the President or Executive Officer.

Term of Office

The term of office for all members of the Members Council is for two years until the next Annual General Meeting of the second year. A maximum of four consecutive terms can be served on the Members Council.

Nominations

Nominations for election to the Members Council must be submitted on the prescribed form. Nominations may be:

- Emailed to: support@landcaretas.org.au with the subject title "Nomination for Members Council"
- Mailed to: Public Officer – Confidential, Landcare Tasmania, PO Box 4791 Bathurst Street, Hobart, TAS, 7000.
- Delivered to the Landcare Tasmania office: Level 2, 100 Elizabeth St, Hobart, TAS, 7000. Nominations should be in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'Public Officer – Confidential'.

Nominations received after 4:00 pm on Friday 8 September 2017 will not be considered.

It is recommended that nominations be submitted by Friday 1 September, as this will provide an opportunity for nominations to be checked for completion and additional information sought from the nominee if required.

For more information

Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the Landcare Tasmania web site, read the 2015-16 Annual Report (http://www.landcaretas.org.au/annual_report) and also talk to current committee members or the CEO. Contact with other Landcare Tasmania staff is prohibited. You are also welcome and encouraged to contact the President of Landcare Tasmania for further information:

- CEO – Rod Knight. Ph: (03) 6234 7117.
Email: support@landcaretas.org.au
- President - Roger Tyshing. Ph: 0448 666 500. Email: rtysHING@gmail.com