

The Landcare Victoria Inc. members survey closed on Friday 23 February with around 10% responding to the invitation to participate – which is about the expected level of response for surveys of this type.

1. Survey synopsis

- Initial review of the replies shows a wide range of issues and sentiment which reflects the diversity of membership.
- There are several prevalent themes and positions which need to be considered in creating the building blocks for the new Landcare Victoria Strategic Plan.

2. Expectations of Landcare Victoria Inc

The overall messages that came out of the survey can be summarised as:

- Show leadership by advocating on our behalf to government and raising awareness of Landcare more broadly, to create a positive environment for achieving our goals,
- Keep us informed of the policy matters, emerging issues and opportunities that affect us, especially funding, and
- Provide support and resources for us but let us get on with our tasks and projects without interference.

3. Common responses to questions

• **Do you have an influential voice in Landcare?**

Maybe, but we would like a stronger voice and need improved methods of having input including better processes to be heard

• **Do you engage effectively with LVI?**

It depends on having the right people facilitating contact. When you lose some-one good representing your group you lose contact/access

• **What do you want from LVI – leadership/support or to be left alone?**

We want to get on with our local tasks while LVI focuses on providing support and strong advocacy to government for Landcare, including for new funding and resources

• **What do your groups want to hear from LVI?**

We want practical information we can use and advice from LVI on changes in government policy and funding that affect us

• **How well do groups in your network collaborate?**

Good people create good connections but more should be done to link groups and build networks including offering incentives to work together



- **Are there preferred activities that best engage members?**

Keep it simple. Email linked to web-based newsletter and online discussion forums. Activities to share ideas, experiences and resources - good speakers dealing with common problems, hands on workshops, demonstrations, forums and link-up meetings

- **Other comments?**

- We need a new Landcare Strategic Plan for the Victorian Government
- LVI needs to make Landcare prominent again in the media
- We must find ways to evolve and strengthen Landcare, and collaborate with other like-minded organisations
- Landcare is respected and we are needed more than ever, but we need to attract new members and promote our cause
- Landcare seems to have served a generation with no following generation to hand on to
- We need demonstrated commitment to funding for facilitators for projects where they can work with the community
- People like to become involved with Landcare but their time is limited, so simple and uncomplicated projects are preferable
- How about round robin catchment highlight tours so that regions could see what other networks are doing
- Create an ongoing Landcare conversation and listen to members – the survey is a good start, maybe do it annually

A detailed report on the survey and members' suggestions, comments and criticisms is being compiled for the new LVI Committee of Management to consider after the election process at the AGM in April 2018.