

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General Information about the Program

What is the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program?

The Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program (VLFP) starts on 1 July 2015 and replaces the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative (VLLFI), which has been in place for four years and ends on 30 June 2015.

How many facilitator positions will be funded under the VLFP?

The VLFP will fund the 68 existing Landcare facilitator positions.

Do the organisations who have been recipients of VLLFI facilitator funding for the past four years need to reapply for funding through the VLFP?

No. Organisations that are recipients of VLLFI facilitator funding don't need to reapply for VLFP funding.

Will new contracts be required for the VLFP?

Yes. New contracts for the VLFP funding will be required.

Why wasn't there an open call for applications so that groups and networks that currently don't have a facilitator could apply?

The commitment of Victorian Government funding for the 68 facilitator positions for the next four years maintains the continuity of support provided by the facilitators, provides certainty for the applicant and host organisations and their facilitators, and helps retain the corporate knowledge of the facilitators.

Increasing the Geographic Coverage of Facilitator Positions

What's the reason for exploring opportunities to extend the facilitators' geographic coverage?

The existing 68 facilitators currently provide support to around 60 per cent of the state's more than 600 Landcare groups. Under the VLFP there is a focus on exploring opportunities to provide support to more groups and networks, which includes, where possible, increasing the geographic areas supported by the 68 facilitators. This may be achieved by:

- establishing new groups/networks in areas where there are currently no groups/networks
- extending support to adjoining Landcare groups/networks that currently don't have a facilitator
- reviving currently dormant Landcare groups/networks.

What if a facilitator already provides support to 100 per cent of the geographic area where they work, i.e. there is complete Landcare group coverage and no 'gaps' in adjoining areas?

In this situation, a facilitator should pursue different ways of building the capacity of groups and networks and new ways of engaging more landholders and the wider community in Landcare.

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Number of Facilitators

Why can't the Victorian Government fund 100 facilitator positions as advocated by the Farm Tree and Landcare Association and the Victorian Landcare Council?

An increase to 100 facilitator positions would mean less funding for each position, with a consequent reduction in the support provided by each facilitator.

Funding Information

Is the same amount of funding available as under the VLLFI?

The Victorian Government funding provided for the VLFP for 2015-16 will be the same amount contracted in 2014-15 through the VLLFI. The funding for years 2-4 of the VLFP (i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19) will be subject to budget confirmation.

Is the funding for the VLFP guaranteed until 30 June 2019?

Provision of VLFP funding for four years (from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019) is subject to satisfactory performance and annual reports being approved by DELWP. The funding for years 2-4 of the VLFP (i.e. from 2016-17 to 2018-19) will be subject to budget confirmation.

Does Goods and Services Tax (GST) apply to the VLFP funding?

No. The funding for the VLFP is GST free.

Can an organisation receive funding for less than the four years of the VLFP?

Yes. Organisations can request to receive funding for less than the four years of the VLFP. An organisation that wants to reduce the length of their funding agreement with the Victorian Government for a facilitator position should notify DELWP as soon as possible.

Can an organisation use any unspent VLLFI funds beyond 30 June 2015?

No. Organisations should look to finalise all payments from VLLFI funds by 30 June 2015. The total amount of any unspent VLLFI funds (as at 30 June 2015) may be recouped by reducing the amount of the 2015-16 VLFP payment. Recouping unspent funds is provided for in the current funding agreement (see clause 3.4).

What will happen to any unspent VLFP funds from year to year over the four years of the program?

The total amount of any unspent funds that an organisation has not expended at the end of each financial year may be deducted from the payment they receive from DELWP for the following financial year.

Budgets

Will there be any change to what the facilitator funding can be spent on?

No. The funding is available for the salary and operating costs of a Landcare facilitator to deliver on the activities in their Program Delivery Plan.

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What are regarded as operating costs?

Operating costs are the basic expenses incurred by a facilitator to undertake their role and may include items such as telephone calls, printing, office space, and work-related travel costs. The new Program Delivery Plan's budget includes a breakdown of all operating costs. A Program Delivery Plan is developed by each applicant organisation and requires approval by DELWP.

Are costs such as travel and training covered by this funding?

Yes. The operating costs of a Landcare facilitator may include work-related travel costs and training. A breakdown of all operating costs needs to be detailed in the budget in the new Program Delivery Plan.

Employment Arrangements

Will employment arrangements for facilitators change under the VLFP?

The VLFP is supported a variety of hosting arrangements for facilitators, including either by an applicant organisation, or a host organisation (if applicable). It is up to each applicant organisation to put in place the employment arrangements for their facilitator(s) that best suit their circumstances.

What if we want to change our current hosting arrangements for our facilitator?

An existing hosting arrangement (under the VLLFI) that an applicant organisation has for a facilitator can be changed (from 1 July 2015), if required, for the VLFP. The employment arrangements for facilitators remain the responsibility of applicant organisations. Please notify DELWP as soon as possible of any changes to the hosting arrangements for your facilitator.

When do the facilitator positions commence under the VLFP?

It is expected that each applicant organisation will have a facilitator(s) in place on 1 July 2015.

What if we don't want a facilitator beyond 30 June 2015?

Please notify DELWP as soon as possible about your organisation's decision not to continue with a facilitator beyond 30 June 2015.

What happens if our facilitator leaves before the VLFP funding runs out?

An applicant organisation must notify DELWP as soon as possible after a facilitator has left the role and when a new facilitator is recruited. The use of any funds not spent while the facilitator position is vacant will need to be discussed with (and approved by) DELWP.

Facilitator's Role

Will there be any change in the role of the facilitator positions?

No. The role of a facilitator is to enable the effective participation of Landcare groups and networks, landholders and the wider community in natural resource management activities that protect, enhance and restore our natural environment, and improve agricultural productivity. The facilitator role also retains a strong focus on building community capacity, rather than dependency, to enable groups and networks to become self-supporting. Administrative tasks associated with the day-to-day operation of a group or network, or the management of on-ground projects, are not part of the facilitator's role.

Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Key Work Areas

Has there been any change to the Key Work Areas for facilitators?

Yes. The Key Work Areas have been revised and now include a work area 'Extending support to more groups and networks'. The Landcare facilitator's work plan will be determined by local needs and priorities, based on the seven Key Work Areas outlined in the *Guidelines* on the VLFP. Details of the specific activities to be undertaken by a facilitator against each of the Key Work Areas will need to be detailed in a new Program Delivery Plan for the VLFP.

More Information

Where can I find more information?

More information can be found in the *Guidelines* for Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program, which is available on the Victorian Landcare Gateway website at <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/>

How Can I Contact You?

You can contact DELWP about the VLFP by email at cel.hub@delwp.vic.gov.au or phone 136 186.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2015



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>
ISBN 978-1-74146-582-2 (pdf)

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone DELWP Customer Service Centre 136 186, email cel.hub@delwp.vic.gov.au, via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.landcarevic.net.au/

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.