

The state of bushcare and landcare in Greater Sydney 2015/16



Our landcare and bushcare volunteers are integral to the protection and maintenance of Sydney's unique and beautiful bushland.

In early 2017 Greater Sydney Local Land Services surveyed landcare groups, council and national parks bushcare coordinators for the 2015/16 financial year. This survey built on previous data collected back in 2012. Ninety-five percent of our entire landcare and bushcare community responded to the survey.

How are we doing?

The survey found that more than 13,000 people volunteered their time as part of a landcare or bushcare program in Greater Sydney¹. More than 7,800 of these volunteers were part of small groups that met on a regular basis. Another 5,200 people contributed to one-off events such as National Tree Day.

The survey identified around 950 active landcare or bushcare groups in the Greater Sydney region.

Our volunteers contributed more than 178,000 hours of their time to the value of more than \$6 million².

Groups mainly focused on conservation activities including bush regeneration and tree planting along with community education and advocacy work.

Many groups also undertook citizen science activities including bird, fauna and vegetation monitoring as well as Streamwatch.



13,000 people volunteered their time as part of a landcare or bushcare program.

950 active bushcare or landcare groups were recorded in the region.

Volunteers contributed more than 178,000 hours valued at \$6.2 million of labour for our local environment.

98 percent of bushcare coordinators and 100 percent of landcare groups rated their satisfaction with Greater Sydney Local Land Services as satisfied or very satisfied.

¹The Greater Sydney region is based on the Greater Sydney Local Land Services regional boundary and includes the Blue Mountains and Central Coast

²Volunteer hours are priced at \$35 per hour

Who helps us?

In the 2015/16 financial year, Greater Sydney Local Land Services provided \$531,408 in funding support to landcare and bushcare groups for environmental projects. The funding was made available by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the NSW Government's Catchment Action NSW program.

Importantly, 98 percent of bushcare coordinators and 100 percent of landcare groups rated their satisfaction with Greater Sydney Local Land Services as satisfied or very satisfied.

Local government also plays a critical role in supporting landcare and bushcare groups. Landcare groups listed local government as a key point of support for their activities and 94 percent of all groups recorded in the survey were bushcare groups supported by council bushcare coordinators.

Additional support networks for groups were the National Parks and Wildlife Service, local landcare networks, the Environmental Trust and local Aboriginal groups.

The survey also showed

Landcare groups identified recruiting more volunteers, on-going funding, and support from bush regeneration professionals as key needs to thrive into the future.

Bushcare Coordinators said help with volunteer dynamics, grant applications and media and communications were important areas of support.

What's different in 2016?

Previous surveys were based on slightly different regional boundaries so it is difficult to accurately compare the current survey with previous results. However the general trend appears to be that the number of regular volunteers has remained steady (7795 in 2016 compared to 7542 in 2012). The previous survey also showed a significant peak in one-off volunteers (19,000) which appears to have declined in the current survey (to ~5200).

Survey period	Total Volunteer Numbers	Total Volunteer Hours
2005 survey	14,060	169,981
2007 survey	21,407	178,793
2009 survey	17,119	180,189
2012 survey	26,394	169,430
2016 survey	13,152	173,723



90 percent of landcare groups described their group's well-being as 'stable' or 'thriving'.

