

Partnership Agreement

between Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network
and Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment
Management Authority



Principles for working together

Shared responsibility. Each party brings a commitment to creating and maintaining a healthy natural environment, strong communities and sustainable agriculture.

Mutual respect. Each party seeks to understand and respect each other's views, interests and constraints, and what the other can contribute in achieving NRM outcomes.

Communicating early and often. Setting priorities, designing projects and negotiating roles all need time. Each party participates in regular communications focussed on anticipating future opportunities and resolving current issues.

Solutions focussed. Each party brings their respective understanding of issues, requirements and opportunities of communities and policies and programs, and draws on their respective strengths to seek mutually beneficial solutions.

Giving constructive feedback. Each party provides each other honest feedback on what is working and not working in the relationship, with the view to maintaining and improving the partnership.



Signed on Monday 25th February 2019

David Maddocks
Chair, MPLN

Peter Scott
Secretary, MPLN

Tania Foster
Chair, PPWCMA

David Buntine
CEO, PPWCMA

This agreement can be reviewed upon request by either party, but is to be reviewed at a minimum of three years from the date of signing.

A commitment to working together



Background

Landcare was formed in Victoria in 1986 following the collaborative work of Heather Mitchell, President of the VFF, and Joan Kirner, Victorian Minister for Conservation, and provided the platform for the Landcare movement we know today.

Landcare is a community-based volunteer movement that brings people together to discuss land and natural resource management issues and designs and implements practical solutions to care for our environment.

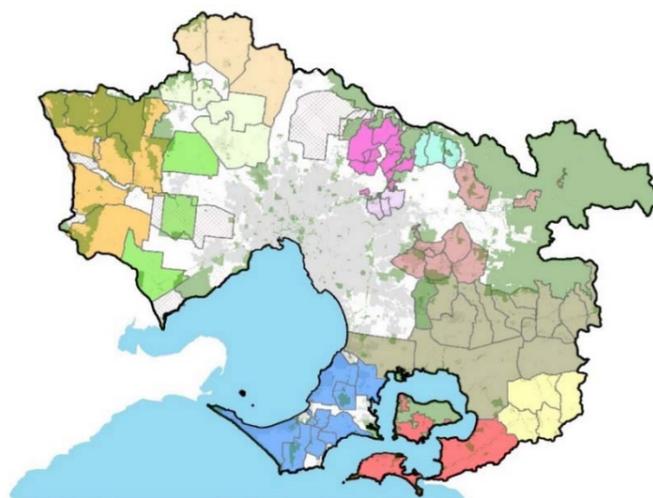
About Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network (MPLN)

The Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network was formed in 2014 to enable the Peninsula's 11 Landcare groups to address local land management issues more effectively and develop collaborative projects to enhance the local environment. MPLN's mission is to protect and enhance the unique environment of the Mornington Peninsula by promoting responsible care of the land.

MPLN's key areas of interest include:

- Protection of existing remnant vegetation and local fauna
- Reconnection of remnant patches of vegetation throughout the landscape through the creation of biolinks
- Control and management of weeds and pests in order to protect productive land and the natural environment
- Improved landholder uptake and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices
- Improved condition of waterways and wetlands
- Working with key organisations to achieve its goals.

(Source: www.mplandcare.org.au)



Landcare groups and networks in the Port Phillip and Western Port region

About Port Phillip & Westernport CMA (PPWCMA)

The Port Phillip and Western Port region covers 1.3 million hectares, 695,000 of which is privately-owned rural land. Across the region there are 86 Landcare groups with an average of 61 members per group. They have formed 13 Landcare networks, covering 75 percent of all private rural land.

PPWCMA's objectives include:

- Coordinating implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources
- Advising on regional priorities, resource allocation, and the condition of land and water resources
- Promoting community awareness and understanding of land and water resources
- Supporting the Landcare movement
- Coordinating delivery of relevant Victorian and Australian Government grants.

(Source: *Port Phillip and Western Port Landcare Report Card 2017-18, PPWCMA Corporate Plan 2018-19*)

Shared objective

A Landcare community on the Mornington Peninsula that is strong, capable, focussed and effective, with the PPWCMA and MPLN collaborating for mutual benefit in the management of the region's natural resources.

Purpose of the agreement

This agreement provides a framework for a collaborative and productive relationship between the PPWCMA and MPLN to optimise their shared capacity to protect and improve the region's natural resources.

Our commitment to working together

Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network will:

1. Provide leadership, capacity building support and strategic direction for its member groups and local community
2. Represent the common interests of Landcare in their Network area at local, regional, state and national levels
3. Advocate for ongoing investment for Landcare through the regional model to build capacity and contribute effectively to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture
4. Provide input into prioritisation of objectives and targets for inclusion in the RCS against relevant targets
5. Pursue locally relevant and beneficial opportunities to contribute to implementation of the RCS
6. Actively participate in regular regional forums for Landcare Network Leaders and for Landcare Facilitators convened by the PPWCMA
7. Actively participate in annual meetings convened by the PPWCMA for senior representatives from both parties to share plans, issues and opportunities of mutual interest
8. Publicly support and promote the MPLN-PPWCMA relationship

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA will:

1. Support Landcare in the Port Phillip and Western Port region, guided by the PPWCMA Landcare Support Plan (2013)
2. Support the common interests of Landcare in the Port Phillip and Western Port region at regional, state and national levels
3. Advocate for ongoing investment for Landcare through the regional model to build capacity and contribute effectively to natural resource management
4. Consult with MPLN for its views and priorities in the development of the RCS
5. Coordinate Landcare grants available to the MPLN and others to support on-ground RCS implementation
6. Convene regular regional forums for Landcare Network Leaders and for Landcare Facilitators, with participant-driven agendas
7. Convene annual meetings at a mutually-agreed time and location for senior representatives of both parties to discuss plans, issues and opportunities
8. Publicly support and promote the MPLN-PPWCMA relationship