

National Landcare Program Phase Two – Regional Land Partnerships

Terrain's summary of FAQs

NB: These responses have been drawn primarily from the material provided by the Australian Government to provide an overview of the program. For the full information please refer to www.nrm.gov.au where you will also find the [Australian Government's FAQ](#) document.

What are the key components of the new NLP2 Program?

The new program is a total investment of \$1.1 billion dollars, divided into a range of programs:

- Regional Land Partnerships (the new regional delivery stream) - \$450M
- Indigenous Protected Areas - \$15M for new, \$93 mill for support to existing
- Establishment of the Centre for Invasive Species - \$16M
- Red Imported Fire Ant - \$50M
- World Heritage Site management - \$47.4M
- Reef 2050 - \$107.7M
- Small environment grants for community - \$5M
- Smart Farms Program - \$134M (made up of three components including small grants)
- Support for ongoing initiatives (e.g. 20 million trees) – remainder unspecified

What is the Regional Land Partnership Program?

The Regional Land Partnership Program is the component of NLP2 that replaces the regional NRM funding stream that currently funds Terrain (and 55 other NRM bodies nationally) to provide technical and engagement services and grant funding to the Wet Tropics community.

From June 30 2018 to June 30 2023, the Australian Government will make \$450 million in funding available nationally through the Regional Land Partnerships program. This is 20% less than what was allocated in the first phase of NLP. This amount will be distributed across the 56 regions (referred to as 'Management Units' in the NLP2 documentation). The Australian Government will not provide a breakdown of the distribution across Management Units, but have stressed that their investment decisions will be determined through their priorities (which have been mapped across the country) as well as the quality of the projects submitted.

What are the sort of activities that the current NLP has funded through the regional delivery?

The regional funding stream from the current NLP funds activities focused on Threatened Species, Traditional Owner Capacity Building and Engagement, Community Groups Skills and Knowledge, the Regional Landcare Facilitator and Innovative Agriculture.

This investment has primarily funded frontline community partnerships staff across the region to provide technical support, broker partnerships, assist with accessing funding and providing assistance to community groups and farmers. This component also funds knowledge and data services such as NRM planning, story maps, GIS support and communications. In addition 20% of the NLP funding has been provided to the community through grants for threatened species recovery, local community priorities, and Traditional Owner capacity building.

What is the focus of the new Regional Land Partnerships Fund?

The Australian Government has made it clear that the NLP2 program will be more focused and targeted than the first round of NLP. This responds to findings in the [recent review](#) of the regional component of the NLP. In addition, NLP2 will focus its investment primarily on projects that deliver on Australia's international obligations and/or national priorities.

In line with this overarching focus, the Regional Land Partnerships component has six proposed outcomes that reflect these obligations and priorities (2 focused on agriculture, 4 focused on environment). These are:

- a. By 2023, the ecological character of **Ramsar sites** is maintained or improved
- b. By 2023, the trajectory of **Threatened Species Strategy** priority species is improved
- c. By 2023, the outstanding universal values of natural and mixed **World Heritage Areas** are maintained or enhanced by a reduction in invasive species threats
- d. By 2023, the condition of nationally **threatened ecological communities** on private land is improved
- e. By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of **land management practices** that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation
- f. By 2023, agriculture systems have a **capacity to adapt** to significant changes in climate, weather and markets.

An indicative allocation of this budget across the full Regional Land Partnerships program is provided in the table below.

Category of services	Indicative split (%)
Core services, such as Strategic NRM Planning, community engagement and monitoring, evaluation and reporting on project progress	20
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator Services	8
Threatened Species Services	30
Ramsar Services	10
Threatened Ecological Communities Services	10
World Heritage Services	5
Soil, Biodiversity and Vegetation Services	12
Supporting Agriculture Systems to Adapt to Change Services	5

What are the NLP2 priority species and ecosystems in the Wet Tropics Region?

The www.nrm.gov.au website has a mapping function that provides this information for all Management Units across Australia. For your convenience, we have summarised the Wet Tropics priorities in the following table.

National Landcare Program 2 Priorities		
List of priority threatened species (from Threatened Species Strategy) and threatened ecological communities eligible for funding in the Wet Tropics – taken from NLP2 mapping system.		
Threatened Species Strategy priority species & Threatened Ecological Communities	Status according to the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)	% of population or area in the Wet Tropics
Purple wattle	Critically endangered	38.67
Ant plant	Vulnerable	52.3
Littoral rainforest	Critically endangered	12.43
Broad leaf tea-tree woodlands	Endangered	32.93
Eastern curlew	Critically endangered	1.77
Mabi forest	Critically endangered	91.55
Mossman fairy orchid	Critically endangered	100
Mahogany glider	Endangered	92.99
Southern cassowary	Endangered	46.62

How will the government decide who will deliver the Regional Land Partnerships?

One service provider will be selected for each Management Unit (using existing NRM Regional boundaries). It is proposed that a formal tender process will run, opening in early December or mid-January. Tendering organisations will need to prepare:

- A response on how they will deliver the required core services for the Management Unit
- A portfolio of NRM projects, addressing both the environment and agriculture outcomes

Will there be funding for Community Groups?

Yes, there is a requirement that 20% of the **Regional Land Partnerships** NRM project funds are allocated to community projects.

Who is eligible to apply for the Regional Land Partnerships funding?

Any organisation is open to applying to be the Service Provider for this program. The successful providers will be determined through a formal Tender process. The Australian Government anticipates that the Tender period will be either from early December until mid February, or from mid January until late February.

Tenders must demonstrate that they can deliver **ALL** of the components of the Regional Land Partnerships program within the Management Unit, including core services. They must demonstrate capability and capacity to provide both environmental and agricultural services and deliver NRM projects relating to environment outcomes and NRM projects related to agricultural projects.

Consortium bids are welcomed including bids to run the program in multiple Management Units. However, the bid must demonstrate clearly how services will be delivered in each Management Unit

separately and the Service Provider must retain a physical presence in each Management Unit for the life of the project. Having said that, the Australian Government is strongly encouraging partnerships for the delivery of the Regional Land Partnerships program.

What will Terrain be doing?

Terrain intends on submitting a tender to be the service provider for the Wet Tropics Management Unit. As part of that process, Terrain will be seeking to engage with groups, partners and members in the region to seek input on priorities and approaches for the new Regional Land Partnerships Program. This will be through a combination of mechanisms:

- A survey (to be released immediately after the consultation period closes)
- Individual meetings with partner organisations – preferably piggy backing on meetings or events you already have scheduled
- A community forum at **Terrain's AGM on the 17th November**, where we will workshop the priorities and approaches for the region, based on the feedback we have gathered through the survey and individual discussions.

Please contact your local Community Partnerships Officer ASAP if you have an opportunity coming up that we could use to have an individual discussion with your group. Otherwise we will do our best to schedule in discussions around the region over the coming 6 weeks.

Where can I find more information, including the proposed Tender requirements?

There is already a lot of information on the [Australian Government website](#). This includes information about all aspects of the program, and videos providing overviews for some components, including the Regional Land Partnerships and Smart Farms. This is also where you can access the survey to provide feedback on the approach they are proposing to take with the Regional Land Partnerships. It is important to take the opportunity to have your say.

Terrain will be making a submission to this survey. It will be made available on the Terrain website from COB Wednesday 18th October. We welcome you to provide us with comments, for reference, or to use any of the material we have prepared for your own submissions.

Please feel free to contact Penny Scott at penny.scott@terrain.org.au or Bart Dryden at bart.dryden@terrain.org.au to discuss the program further, or to arrange for a discussion with your group.

