



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1997



**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
AND RESOURCES SA**

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INTRODUCTION

"Landcare is an excellent example of the capacity of voluntary work and cooperative effort to produce enormous ecological, economic and social benefits in communities and regions. It is a dynamic program, capable of changing with the times to meet new needs and challenges. From its inception in Victoria as a pilot scheme in the mid-1980's, when projects were often limited to a single farm and a single farming family, it has metamorphosed into a national program involving groups of people acting cooperatively to restore the ecologies of whole catchment areas."

"Now it appears that Landcare is entering a third phase of development - in which local projects, with the assistance of local Landcare coordinators and facilitators, are increasingly integrated into strategies designed to revitalise the ecologies of whole regions; strategies which are themselves auspice under the revised Decade of Landcare Plan and the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development."...

"We need to create a more equitable balance in the relationship between the State, the community and the market; and between social, economic and environmental goals. Our public policies must give

greater weight to the maintenance and development of 'social capital' – the trust, goodwill and cooperation within a community, an organisation, a company or a country which underpins sustainable social and economic development. Landcare is a wonderful example of the value of social capital."

(Robert W. Fitzgerald, 1997)

These words, delivered by Robert Fitzgerald AM, President of the Australian Council of Social Services at the National Landcare Conference in Adelaide in September, recognise the importance of contributions made by the many players to the landcare movement and its development. They also provide goals for policy development for landcare into the future.

In South Australia, more than 300 landcare groups and projects are involved in this development. Across Australia the number of community landcare groups has grown to approximately 4,270. The task of landcare is not easy, and the vagaries of climate and weather will always be a problem, but such challenging events can be withstood communities take up the challenge and are support in their endeavours.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE COMMITTEE (SALC)

During the past eight years the South Australian Landcare Committee (formerly the State Management Committee for the Decade of Landcare) has been proud to be part of these landcaring efforts.

The Committee has endeavoured to play a significant role in landcare in South Australia, with special emphasis on informing and activating the urban community, by initiating the following projects and services:

- Kids for Landcare programs in schools.
- Establishing the Outdoor Classroom at Golden Grove.
- Managing the South Australian Landcare Awards.
- Publishing the Landcare News, which has now evolved into the Landcare Bushcare Telegraph.
- Registering community landcare groups and assisting them to begin.
- Provision of public liability insurance cover for landcare group activities.
- Various community activities.

During 1996 the South Australian Landcare Committee underwent a period of review of its objectives, and development of strategies for the future. These objectives are:

1. To provide a State perspective on the Landcare program, priorities and achievements:
 - 1.1 Be a peak body for landcare groups in South Australia.
 - 1.2 Support local government in the adoption of Local Agenda 21.
 - 1.3 Support the concept and development at local catchment, district, regional and State levels of integrated natural resource management, including the valuation of non-market natural resources.
 - 1.4 Increase the financial support, and influence the distribution of funds for Landcare at National and State levels.
 - 1.5 Increase political support for Landcare in urban communities.

2. To influence policy and direction of Landcare:

- 2.1 Increase the profile of Landcare to government by supporting natural resource management policy development.
- 2.2 Support the concept, adoption and principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- 2.3 Support national landcare policy development.

3. To achieve broad community education of the Landcare ethic:

- 3.1 Support the adoption of the Landcare ethic at all levels of education.
- 3.2 Support community development and participation programs in the adoption of Landcare.

4. To assist with raising corporate funding for Landcare activities through Landcare Australia Limited with a total of \$750,000 being sought.

Specific Strategies and Actions supported all these objectives.

Government organisations that interact with SALC to some degree are described in the background notes to this report. All of those organisations and some others have been formed since the Cabinet appointment of the State Management Committee (now the SALC). They all have some overlapping roles and responsibilities. However, one of the most important roles of the SALC is to promote landcare education at all levels. It is the only body of those listed in the background notes assigned with this responsibility.

The role of the SALC is considered vital if the level of awareness and subsequent support of soil conservation and landcare within government circles and the general community is to continue.

The SALC met four times during 1997. A full list of the members at the end of 1997, is as follows:

- Dr Barbara Hardy AO, Chairperson (1989 – 2 March 1997)
- Mr Hume Macdonald, Chairperson, (3 March 1997 – Present), SA Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- Mr Dennis Mutton, Chief Executive Officer, Primary Industries & Resource SA
- Mr Mike Gaden, South Australian Farmers Federation
- Mr Gerry Butler, Soil Conservation Council of SA
- Mr Roger Wickes, Director, Sustainable Resources, Primary Industries & Resources SA
- Mr Syd Nairn, Advisory Board of Agriculture
- Mr Denys Slee, Denys Slee & Associates
- Mr Stephen Blight, Dept of Education and Children's Services
- Mr Alistair Christie, Local Government Association of SA
- Mr Peter Hoey, Dept for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs

Executive Officer, Mr Grant Lomman, who is also the Decade of Landcare Coordinator for South Australia.

During the year Ms Rowena McLean, who had represented the Australian Conservation Council on the SALC, resigned. The Committee has greatly appreciated Ms McLean's contribution to its deliberations, and wishes her well in her future activities.

Also during the year, the place of Mr Stephen Blight was occasionally taken by Mr David Butler in order to report upon the landcare and environmental education programs of the Department of Education, Training and Employment.

The SALC appreciates having Governor, Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, as its Patron and for his support during the year.

Throughout 1997 SALC has been pleased to work with the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Robert Kerin MP. The Minister is the Member for the rural electorate of Frome and has a personal interest in landcare activities.

The Chief Executive Officer of Primary Industries SA was Mr Michael Madigan until April 1997 when Mr Dennis Mutton was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Primary Industries and Resources SA.

Mr Roger Wickes is Director of the Sustainable Resources Division, Primary Industries and Resources SA within which the Landcare Unit operates.

Mr Paul Moran continued in his important role as Principal Consultant, Planning and Strategic Development as did Mr Rob Wallace in his role as Education Officer, Landcare Focus Schools Program with the part time assistance of Ms Janet Kuys and Ms Kaye Best. Mr Andrew Curtis is the State Landcare Coordinator coordinating and supporting regional landcare Officers and Community Landcare Groups, of which there are now over 300, and their projects.

In July 1996 Chairperson, Barbara Hardy, foreshadowed her resignation from the SALC, having chaired the Committee during the seven years since it began in 1989. She offered to "maintain a watching brief" until a new Chairperson was appointed by Cabinet on 3 March 1997, Mr Hume Macdonald.

TRIBUTE TO DR BARBARA HARDY, AO



Bill Fairbanks, Company Secretary, Landcare Australia Limited presenting Dr Barbara Hardy AO with a certificate of appreciation at her farewell cocktail party. Hon Rob Kerin, MP (Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development) in background. March 1997

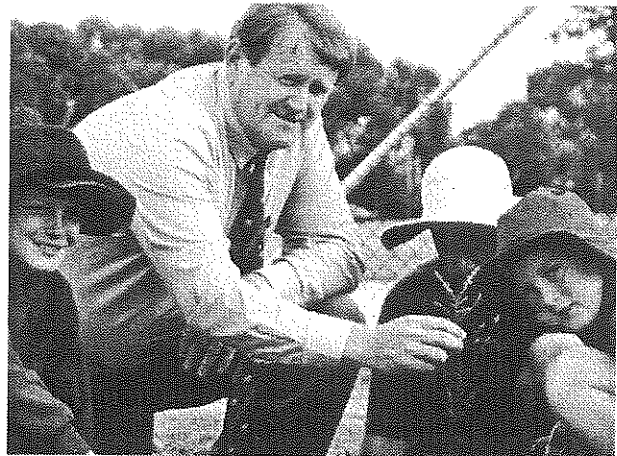
The Committee was greatly disappointed to lose the services of the inaugural Chairperson Dr Barbara Hardy on 2 March 1997. Dr Hardy contributed greatly to the affairs of the South Australian Landcare Committee and its earlier committees in establishing and so successfully raising the awareness levels of Landcare in South Australia. Her strong leadership in driving the Committee and in assisting the Foundation raising funds for Landcare will be greatly missed.

LANDCARE MONTH - MARCH 1997

Minister Kerin launched Landcare Month at the Urrbrae Wetlands. The theme was "Veg-out with Landcare".

Events during Landcare Month included:

- The ABC Carpark Caper, which was again attended by several thousand people, where sellers and buyers of plants were active and enthusiastic, and the Jon Lamb Gardening Program was broadcast. The SALC was most grateful to ABC Rural Program presenter Leigh Radford, for hosting this event, which not only raised the profile of landcare in the minds of many urban people, but also raised several thousand dollars for the Landcare Foundation.
- The Landcare Month cocktail party. Fifty (50) people attended an excellent evening honouring Dr Barbara Hardy for her commitment to landcare on State and National levels and Cicely Bungey for her contribution to Landcare. The Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Rob Kerin also launched the State section of the National Landcare Awards.



Hon Rob Kerin, MP (Minister for Primary Industries, Natural Resources and Regional Development) at launch of Landcare Month at Urrbrae Wetlands, 1997

- The Eric Bogle Concert at Strathalbyn where he sang "Care for the Land", a song written for Landcare.

SALC'S ROLE IN LANDCARE EDUCATION



*Student doing invertebrate identification at Greenfields Wetlands.
Landcare Focus Schools Program.*

In 1997 the Landcare Focus Schools' Program enabled eight new schools to benefit from its program. It is funded by the National Landcare Program (NLP), and run by Primary Industries and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) and the Department of Education Training and Employment (DETE). It also has support from the Australian Association of Environmental Education (AAEE) and in 1997 received additional funding from the National Fishcare Program and the Murray Urban Users Committee.

Schools in the 1997 program included both rural and urban schools from all over the state. They were Coober Pedy Area School, Allendale East Area School, Raukkan Aboriginal School, Echunga Primary School, Goolwa Children's Centre, Seaford Rise Primary School, Karrendi Primary School and St Francis School.

As described in the 1996 report the program works with teachers rather than students, taking on the role of developing Landcare based environmental education programs across school levels.

During the 1997 program, environmental issues were presented with an Ecologically Sustainable Land Management focus, through seminars, curriculum development workshops and on site visits. These included trips to the Inverbrackie Creek Catchment in the first session looking at a whole catchment management approach to planning and management in the Mount Lofty Ranges. The second session looked at

issues related to vegetation including die back, rising water tables due to clearing, as well as revegetation and other techniques to arrest soil and catchment problems. The third session was on the marine and coastal environments and included fish management and habitat, the effects of poor soil and effluent management practices on the marine environment and ways of improving these practices.

Teachers then incorporated the knowledge gained from these sessions to develop individual school environmental education programs with a Landcare focus and started linking them to practical projects in schools and communities.

The program was coordinated by Rob Wallace, Education Officer for PIRSA and Sue Coad, Curriculum Officer with DETE. Kaye Best was appointed to the position of Landcare Community Awareness Officer to replace Janet Kuys who left to join Greening Australia.

During 1997 papers on the program were presented at two national conferences. In January Rob and Sue presented at the 1997 Earthlinks National Environmental Education Conference, and in September at the National Landcare Changing Australia Conference in Adelaide.

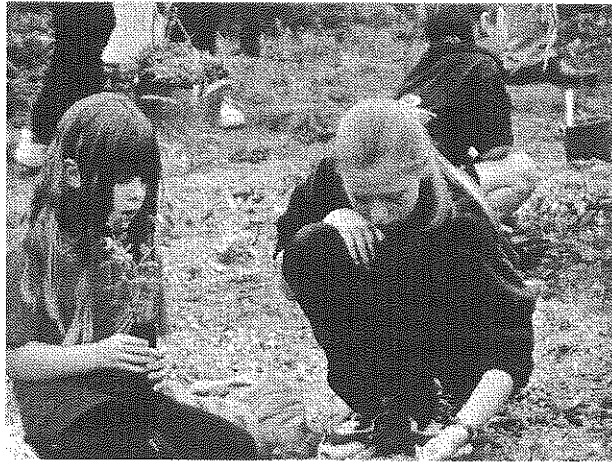
THE KIDS FOR LANDCARE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM (KLOC)

The KLOC was described in some detail in previous Annual Reports. It is an innovative community park aimed at teaching urban children about rural land management and conservation aspects through 'hands-on' activities. The classroom is jointly managed by Tea Tree Gully Council and the Dept of Education Training and Employment.

During 1997 Ardtornish Primary School relinquished their ties with the Classroom in the light of the extra work they are now involved in with the Kids Congress for Catchment Care. Their effort since the inception of the Classroom has been much appreciated. The Management Committee was very pleased with the extra commitment made by Golden Grove Primary School and Neil Thelning taking on full DETE representation for the Outdoor Classroom. Golden Grove is also handling school bookings for the KLOC.

Maintenance at the site has continued to be carried out very capably by Mr Graeme Carpenter and the Friends of the Outdoor Classroom.

Schools, interested individuals and/or groups who would like to visit KLOC should contact either Neil Thelning or Barbie Kates at Golden Grove Primary School on (08) 82893137 or fax (08) 82893138.



Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom, planting day

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SALC

During 1997, 300 landcare groups from around South Australia operated on a wide range of issues related to natural resource management in the state. Of these, approximately 40 of the groups were registered in 1997.

Activities conducted were centred on achieving on ground works relating to land management, native vegetation, biodiversity conservation, revegetation, and water course and wetland management.

Funding through the Natural Heritage Trust was distributed to more than 30 percent of groups, although delays experienced by some groups in receiving funds caused a few projects to be placed on hold for a year.

During 1997 discussions commenced in relation to the employment of a number of community managed landcare officers to work with existing and new groups in a number of regions of the state.

In September, the National Landcare Conference was held in Adelaide.

NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE



Hume Macdonald, Chairman, SA Landcare Committee. National Landcare Conference, September 1997

More than 900 delegates from around Australia and overseas attended the National Landcare Conference held in Adelaide in September 1997. Roger Wickes, Director Sustainable Resources was the convenor of the conference, and PIRSA was the host agency. A management committee was drawn from Government Agencies, community groups and research institutions within South Australia.

The conference was heralded as a major success that will continue to influence Natural Resource Management thinking for a number of years.

The major themes to emerge from the conference were built around the need to recognise the strengths of the landcare movement. Landcare's future lies in its capacity to remain a grass roots, community driven organisation. The importance of "community" emerged in many of the papers presented at the conference and among delegates. There was a strong sense of the need to retain the landcare movement's origins which of course is its strength - the thousands of people around the country who work together to make things happen.

The conference recognised the significant progress already made towards sustainable agriculture and natural resource management, identifying many alternative ways forward and contributing to making many of those ideas more widely known.

The conference also reinforced the desire for a continued partnership between communities and governments, and identified the need for well-directed policies to be formed following consultation with all stakeholders.

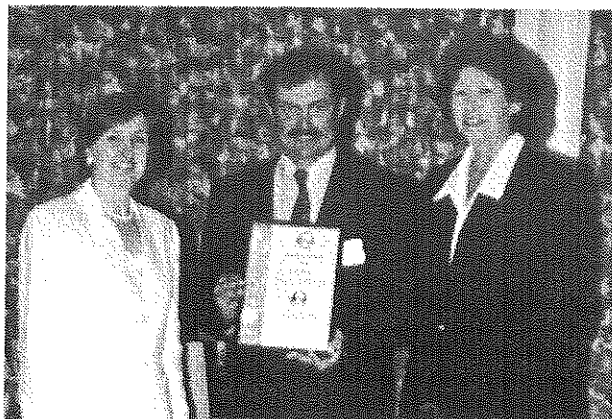
The best practice sessions, show-casing a number of landcare groups' success stories captured the essence of what landcare is about. The people who gave the best practice sessions offered people hope through practical examples of how environmental and agricultural problems can be tackled. There is enormous satisfaction in, and benefits to be gained from, a plan that works, and even greater pleasure in passing on a model for others to use.

The next National Landcare Conference will be held in Melbourne in March 2000.



Mike Kluge, Kevin Jaeschke, Jock Douglas and Rex Edmonson at the National Landcare Conference dinner where the 1997 MacKell Medal was presented to Kevin Jaeschke of Hart, South Australia.

THE NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS – SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SECTION



Yvette Reade, Boral Energy, and Hon Dorothy Kotz MP (Minister for Environment and Heritage) presenting the Cotton Australia Landcare Primary Producer Award to Kym Denver (centre).

Thirty-two entries were received, most of which were of a high standard. Judging was organised by Mr Grant Lomman and the winners were announced at an award dinner held at the Belair Country Club. The Awards in South Australia were sponsored by Boral Energy. The Hon. Dorothy Kotz, MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage and Yvette Reade representing Boral Energy presented each of the winners with a welcome cheque, to assist their work, as well as a Certificate.

A major company or organisation sponsors each category (nationally). The category winners in South Australia were:

- Telstra Landcare Education Award – Elliston Area School.
- Telstra Landcare Local Government Award – Coorong District Council.
- Environment Australia Nature Conservation Award – Bushland Conservation Pty Ltd
- Cotton Australia Landcare Primary Producer Award – Brian & Kym Denver.
- Landcare Community Group Award – Clare Valley Viticultural.
- NLP Individual Landcare Award – Mary Crawford.
- BP Landcare Catchment Award – Bremer Barker Catchment Group.
- Ford Landcare Media Award – Melanie Kitschke.
- Fuji Xerox Landcare Business Award – SA Generation Corporation.
- BHP Landcare Research Award – No nomination.

The winning entries have been sent to Landcare Australia for judging in December. The National Award presentation will be held in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra on Tuesday, 24 March 1998.

THE IBIS AWARDS

SALC member Denys Slee was directly involved in managing the Ibis Award program sponsored by the Commonwealth Development Bank for excellence in commercial primary production and nature conservation. Denys Slee reported that in 1997 more entries were received than in 1996 and the regional winners were:

Pastoral – Douglas & Gordon Lillecrapp, Todmorden Station via Alice Springs

Eyre Peninsula – The Holman Family, Cockaleechee

Mid North & Yorke Peninsula – Kevin & Lorna Jaeschke, Hart

Adelaide Hills & Kangaroo Island – Tim & Sue Thorn, Hope Forest

Murray Mallee & Upper South East – Rob & Jan Smyth, Cooke Plains

Lower South-East – Des & Pat Castine, Penola

RELATIONSHIP WITH LANDCARE AUSTRALIA LTD (LAL)

The background information on the formation of Landcare Australia Ltd in 1989 is described in the Appendix to this Annual Report.

In its 1996-97 Annual Report LAL makes the point that "the landcare movement has continued its leadership in the grass roots application of the principles of sustainable land use". Australia is certainly respected right across the world for its development and support of the very active community landcare movement.

LAL reports that National awareness of landcare between September 1995 and October 1996 stayed stable at around 69% on a national basis according to research conducted by Roy Morgan Research Centre on their behalf.

The basic administrative costs of LAL are met by the Commonwealth Government as a fee for services provided by this very hard-working and relatively small organisation (six staff members) in generating valuable and substantial support for the landcare movement right across Australia.

During the 1996-97 financial year total funds raised by LAL through donations, sponsorships and licensing fees (the logo), in cash and in kind, were \$8.2million. This is an increase of almost 10% on the previous year. Of this amount, almost \$1.91million was raised by the Landcare Foundation in contributions and pledges.

An exciting project which LAL is currently developing is the Carbon Credits Scheme to encourage the corporate sector to support 'on ground' National Landcare Programs and Coastcare revegetation projects. It is planned that under this scheme companies will gain government recognition for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂) by providing funding to landcare/coastcare groups through the Landcare Foundation to enhance 'carbon sinks'.

Landcare Australia Ltd is very much aware of how heavily it depends on the States and Territories for cooperation in landcare awareness raising, and implementation of landcare projects. Staff of the respective agencies, and the hundreds of people working in community landcare groups, tree-planting projects, landcare and environmental education in schools and tertiary institutions, and many other landcare activities, are the lifeblood of the landcare movement in Australia. LAL depends greatly on liaison with them, and their support of its initiatives. The success of landcare in Australia depends on this cooperation.

THE LANDCARE FOUNDATION, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE

One of the major successes of LAL has been the establishment of the Landcare Foundation, which was set up in 1994 with Sir James Hardy OBE as its National Chairman. This was particularly pertinent to South Australia, as Sir James is originally a South Australian. As well as being an Olympic yachtsman and America's-Cup skipper, he was the Chairman of the former South Australian family wine company, Thomas Hardy & Sons Pty Ltd (now a public company, BRL Hardy Ltd). Sir James Hardy has since retired from this role and has been appointed Chairman of the Advisory Panel for the Natural Heritage Trust.

As described in the 1996 SALC Annual Report, the Landcare Foundation raises money and 'in kind' support for landcare group projects from the corporate sector and the Australian public.

The SA Landcare Foundation Committee (a sub-committee of the SALC) is chaired by Mr Hume Macdonald, and was briefly described previously.

Since December 1996 funds raised by the SA group have increased slowly, and have now reached \$509,459.00. The small group of fund-raisers is most grateful for the contributions made by landcare group members who receive the added benefit of tax deductibility.

During the year a number of projects have been supported and sponsors acknowledged:

- Yaldara Wines donated \$50,000 towards the establishment of a Wetlands Project. This has been greatly appreciated.
- BRL Hardy Ltd.'s sales of Banrock Wines from the Riverland have resulted in a contribution of approximately \$45,000 to the Foundation for assisting with wetland work.

The following completion report was received by the Foundation Committee regarding a project that had previously been funded:

- Australian Conservation Foundation – "Bush to Suburbs to Sea" urban/rural link program.

CONCLUSION

"In the long term, development is sustainable only when it occurs without major environmental destruction. For future generations to have the chance to enjoy a level of environmental quality and a lifestyle which is as rich as our own, the total stock of renewable resources which exists must be retained. Economic development and the maintenance of environmental integrity are two sides of the same coin."

"Ultimately if Australia is to continue to prosper as a nation, any increased production must not result in a continuing decline in the value of the nation's resource base, nor its biological diversity, nor its capacity to assimilate waste." (from "Australia's Environment and Its Natural Resources - an outlook" CSIRO 1990)

There it is - a job for all of us - and we are getting on with it very well indeed. During the eight years since the National Landcare Program began, considerable improvements have, and are being made.

The South Australian Landcare Committee is determined to play its part in contributing to this excellent landcare effort.



HUME MACDONALD

CHAIRPERSON

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LANDCARE COMMITTEE

APPENDIX - Background Notes

Landcare Australia Ltd, a non-profit company, was formed in October 1989 with the national mission statement, "to develop a landcare ethic amongst all Australians and to raise consciousness of the fact that only careful management of the land and all its resources will maintain our quality of life and that of future generations".

The company's objectives are as follows:

- To develop a landcare ethic amongst all Australians.
 - To encourage and stimulate awareness of the importance of landcare and the adoption of landcare principles.
 - To encourage and stimulate public participation in landcare activities.
 - To encourage and facilitate education on landcare principles in schools and the community generally.
 - To educate and disseminate all forms of information through all media to promote the objects of the company.
 - To develop activities to attract corporate and community funding for appropriate projects consistent with the objectives of the company.
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The **Soil Conservation Council** was formed with the enactment of the Soil Conservation and Land Care Act 1989, in March 1990.

The role of the Soil Conservation Council's 12 members is:

- to advise the Minister of the Primary Industries on the administration of the Act.
- to develop integrated strategies for the conservation and rehabilitation of the land of the State.
- to disseminate information on the state of the land resources.
- to promote community awareness and involvement in issues relating to conservation and rehabilitation of land.

The **Natural Resources Council of South Australia** (NRC) with its membership of 16 was formed in June 1992. The NRC provides the Government with independent, multi-disciplinary, integrated advice and information on the maintenance and ecologically sustainable development and use of South Australia's natural resources

The aim of the NRC as the peak body providing advice on natural resources, is to assist the Government in developing natural resources policies, through a planned and coordinated approach, (including economic conditions) which will secure resources for current and future generations.

- sustainable development that ensures minimal impact on ecological processes and systems.
- an equitable distribution of the cost and benefits of natural resources development and use.
- a sustained quality of life and prosperity for individuals and the community.

The main functions of the NRC are:

- to seek and coordinate information.
 - to identify and clarify issues.
 - to provide the Government with advice.
 - to develop and recommend coordinated policies.
 - to consult with relevant government and community sectors on natural resources issues.
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In addition to the above, we now have the **National Landcare Advisory Committee** (NLAC) established in July 1993. NLAC's goal is, "To advise the Minister and the Government (Federal) on all matters relevant to Landcare ie. The management of the use, development and conservation of Australia's natural resources, and to work with all sectors of the community to encourage ecological sustainable use of resources and practices which achieve this."