

NRM Plan Project

Natural Resource Management
Working Group



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The aim of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Working Group (hereinafter referred to as the “Working Group”) is to collaborate with Lockyer Valley Regional Council to develop an NRM Strategy and NRM Plan that represents the values and priorities of the Lockyer Valley Local Government Area community and ensures our natural assets are valued and protected to sustain and enhance our unique rural lifestyle and environment.

Functions

The Working Group’s main functions include:

- Sharing valuable expert local knowledge on the region’s natural resource values, and threats to these values (both spatially and temporally), to ensure the accuracy and quality of the NRM Plan actions;
- Ensuring that the NRM Strategy and NRM Plan reflect the values and priorities of the community;
- Collecting and disseminating information to and from the community members they are representing;
- Promoting the Region’s natural assets as “assets”;
- Ensuring other Strategies and Plans are not duplicated; and
- Ensuring the NRM Strategy and NRM Plan are sustainable and able to be updated into the future.

Objective

The objective of the Working Group is to develop an NRM Strategy and NRM Plan which ensures our natural assets are valued and protected to sustain our unique rural lifestyle. The NRM Strategy and NRM Plan are to be completed ready for adoption, by 2020. The content of the NRM Strategy and NRM Plan will be developed using the expert, local knowledge of the Working Group members (and the community they are representing), which will be collected through a series of professionally facilitated workshops.



Out of Scope

The timeframes and budget for the development of the NRM Strategy and NRM Plan are not negotiable, as these have been set by Council.

Council will be the final approver of the NRM Strategy and NRM Plan documents.

Membership

Membership to the Working Group is voluntary and will be selected through an 'expression of interest' process managed by Council. Expressions of interest for the Working Group will be called via public advertisement including print, online media and may include direct invitations. Self-nomination to be considered for membership is permitted. There is no remuneration for membership of the Working Group.

Membership of the Working Group will seek to represent a broad range of stakeholders including:

- Council representatives including Councillors and Officers;
- Traditional owners, primary producers, horticulturalists, environmental community groups, developers, students and academics, business owners, tree-changers, tourism, residential communities, pseudo-government bodies, and State Government departments; and
- A range of ages and genders.

Working Group members will be selected using the following criteria:

- Reside or work within, or be closely affiliated with, the Lockyer Valley Regional Council local government area;
- Have strong community links and knowledge;
- Be committed to working positively in partnership with Lockyer Valley Regional Council to achieve positive outcomes;
- Represent stakeholder community interests rather than personal interests;
- Demonstrate how they will collect and disseminate information from and to the community members they are representing; and
- Be available to attend four workshops between June 2019 and June 2020.

Working group members may send a proxy if they are unable to attend a workshop or if they leave their position during the time that the working group is effective. Final membership and membership numbers are at the discretion of Council.

Working Group Principles

The Working Group principles were developed by the Working Group members at their first workshop held on 25 June 2019. They include:

- We are respectful, listen consciously and act with integrity;
- We collaborate by finding common ground and compromising;
- We are positive, open, adaptable and committed to the process;
- We keep discussions relevant; and
- We acknowledge the project limitations.



Meetings

Working Group workshops will be facilitated by professional facilitators using methods to harvest the collective knowledge and wisdom of the Working Group and the community members they are representing.

The operation of the Group will be facilitated by a Council officer who will:

- Manage electronic diary meeting invitations;
- Collate and distribute agendas, newsletter and reports;
- Provide an appropriate venue; and
- Support members to fulfil the intent of their appointment.

Decision Making Process

The aim of the NRM Working Group is to represent a diversity of viewpoints and community views. It is not a requirement that consensus be reached among members on the issues discussed.

If a member believes he or she may have a conflict of interest in relation to a particular issue or item of discussion, the member is requested to make this position clear to the Working Group members. The member will not be excluded from discussion on the issue.

Members of the Working Group are expected to undertake their role in accordance with the Working Group Functions and Working Group Principles outlined above. Any conflicts which may arise between Working Group members should be resolved as much as possible through direct conversations where the goal is to understand each other's perspective and find common ground. Where unresolved conflict affects the Working Group and its operations, members in conflict may be directed by Council, to take a leave of absence until the conflict is resolved.

Individual membership of the Working Group may be cancelled by Council at its sole discretion via a letter under the signature of the Chief Executive Officer.

Confidentiality

Group members are encouraged to collect information from the community members they are representing and to distribute the information discussed during the workshops to their wider networks.

Newsletters will be provided after each workshop to assist working group members with disseminating this information. These newsletters will also be available on Council's website.

All matters discussed at meetings of the Group will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of both the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Amendments of Terms of Reference

Lockyer Valley Regional Council may at any time, after consultation with the NRM Working Group, vary these Terms of Reference. The NRM Working Group may recommend to Council variations to the Terms of Reference which Council will consider.