

# Our program Approach

## Our focus on program outcomes

### Why a program focus is important

There are two important reasons why the Molonglo Conservation Group believes a program-based outcomes focus is necessary:

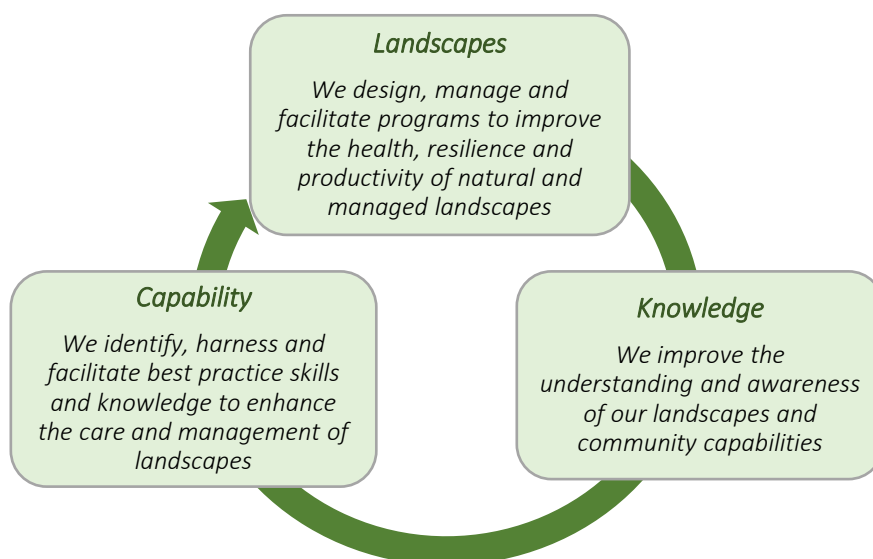
1. complex governance arrangements require ongoing coordination across multiple stakeholders (Our Operational Plan)
2. diverse and interconnected use of natural assets—land, water and biodiversity—require an interconnected, long term community-based management approach (see Molonglo Catchment Strategy 2015-2030)

We recognise that it is not optimal to simply keep applying for grants opportunistically, since government funding and priorities wax and wane. Short-term projects are an ineffective medium for achieving sustainable impacts on the degradation of our region’s natural resources—without a long-term commitment to outcomes, the short-term benefits of many environmental programs can be undone soon after realising the short-term benefits.

Instead, the Group’s central role in coordinating action across the region affecting the Molonglo catchment makes us ideally situated to implement and manage a holistic, outcomes-focused program approach across all natural resource management.

## Our programs

Each of our programs is distinct, yet interdependent. Our program areas target improved outcomes in landscapes, capability and knowledge. We consider each of these outcomes in project development, design and delivery.



The **Landscapes** program is designed to achieve landscape-scale outcomes for interconnection of people and environment across the southern tablelands. The program delivers as core services:

- Cross-border Policy and Management
  - grant applications, climate adaptation strategic mapping, environment and heritage assessments and cross-border partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, NRM program design and management, regional and agricultural economics, scientific writing and editing, social and economic impact assessment; and
- Interconnected Landscape management
  - research and technology, NRM science, rural productivity, Aboriginal Caring for Country

The **Knowledge** program is designed to build capacity for Landscape planning, an outcome that delivers as support services:

- Rural Landscape Management
  - Conservation Agreements, field sampling and analysis, flora and fauna management, habitat value of trees, landscape planning and restoration,
- NRM Technologies
  - Bio-cultural Aboriginal knowledge, GIS mapping, soil landscape mapping, and science and salinity management; and
- Citizen Science (Waterwatch and Vegwatch).

The **Capability** program is designed to deliver an outcome of sustaining resources, delivering as core services:

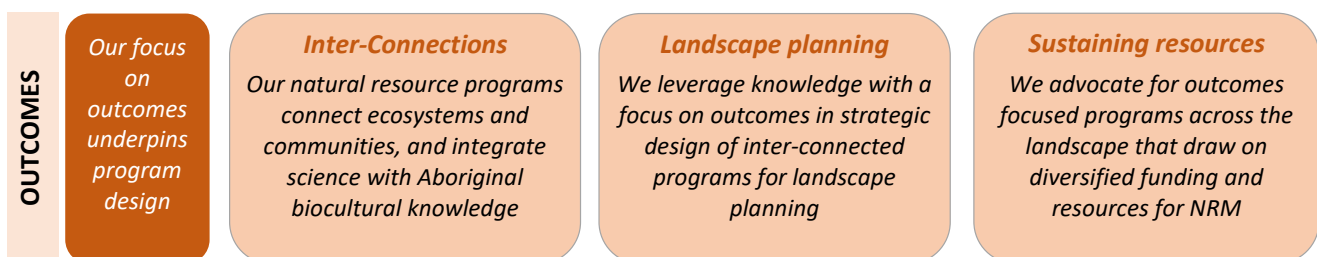
- Management of programs
  - community engagement, ecological connectivity, sustainable landscape management, waterway health;

and as a support service:

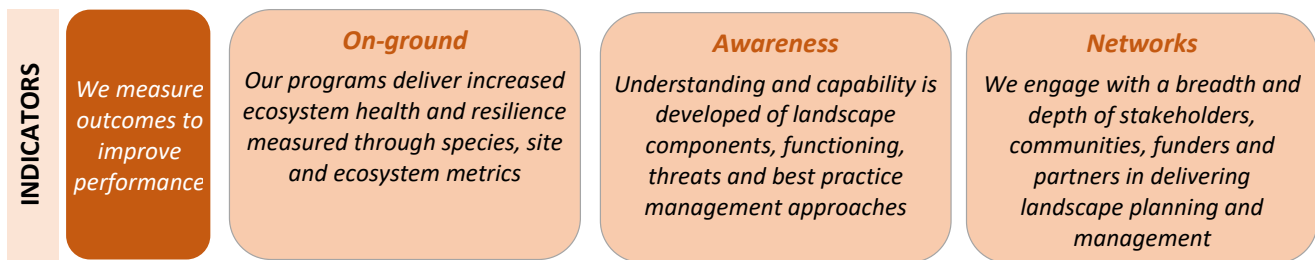
- Community Engagement
  - Brokering stakeholder partnerships, facilitate forums and consultation and submissions and volunteer management; and
- Traditional Aboriginal Culture
  - Aboriginal plant food species, workshops and walks, partnerships with the Aboriginal community.

## Monitoring Our Progress

The progress of our programs will be monitored against outcomes and our overall vision using performance indicators.



Performance benchmarks will provide ambitious targets to achieve for each performance indicator at a point in time that is not too distant.



We are currently working to improve the Group’s responsiveness to change, while strengthening our capacity for long-term strategic planning of our Landscape, Knowledge and Capability programs by establishing clear, structured volunteer stewardship pathways into and out of the Group. The volunteer stewardship pathways programs are centred on providing a creative and supportive environment for our member groups and for volunteers from the wider community to share ideas and knowledge. These programs are intended to empower volunteers and will necessarily evolve and adapt as ideas, take form, opportunities are identified, and proposals developed into funded projects.

- The Landscape Stewardship Program is called Ngunawal Pathways and is focused on supporting our long-term strategic planning focused by member group broad key priorities - connectivity, conservation, biodiversity – and our Reconciliation Action Plan.
- The Capability Stewardship Program is called Volunteer Pathways and is focused on sustaining resources for climate adaption.
- The Knowledge Stewardship Program is called Impact Pathways and is focused on monitoring and evaluation, draws from the Landscape and Capability programs, and on information and knowledge generated through our project delivery.

Consistent with the program outcomes, the aim of all three volunteer stewardship programs is to generate outcomes that underpin interconnections, landscape planning and sustainable resources. As with all our operations the volunteer stewardship programs are measured against on-ground, awareness and network indicators.