

## OUR ROLE IN THE MOLONGLO CATCHMENT

The Molonglo catchment has a complex governance structure. The catchment straddles two state/territory jurisdictions. Approximately three-quarters of the catchment lies in NSW and one quarter in the ACT. NSW and ACT agencies include South East Local Land Services, The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, The ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), The ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group.

The part of the NSW Southern Tablelands area that is within and surrounds the Molonglo catchment (primarily managed by NSW SE Local Land Services) overlaps with a mix of traditional Aboriginal cultural boundaries and lines of connection, and statutory Aboriginal Land Council boundaries. Aboriginal people have lived in this region and managed the landscape for a very long time. The earliest dated evidence of Aboriginal presence in the Canberra-Queanbeyan region is about 25,000 years old. There are many sites of significance to Aboriginal people and many artefacts and cultural features in the local landscape.

The history of Aboriginal people is a living history and, in the present day, this region is defined by Ngunawal traditional boundaries (spelt Ngunnawal by some clan groups and the ACT Government), traditional boundaries of the Gundungurra, Dharawal, Yuin, Ngarigo Aboriginal communities and Ngambri Aboriginal Land Council. In the ACT there are currently four Representative Aboriginal Organisations – Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, Mirrabee, King Brown Tribal Group, and Ngarigo Currawong Clan.

Our region is unlike most other Landcare districts in that there is no one authority with clear responsibility for environmental and Natural Resource Management planning and programs across the region. We don't seek to duplicate services that are otherwise available, but rather to assist with coordination and collaboration, and to add value to those services. Partnering with NSW South East Local Land Services, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, ACT Government EPSDD, Landcare ACT and Landcare NSW plays an important part in achieving that aim. The Commonwealth is also actively involved in environment, water, and Landcare programs in the catchment.

The Molonglo Conservation Group was incorporated as an association in the ACT as a network of Landcare and Park Care groups in the Molonglo catchment. While our operations traverse the ACT-NSW border, we collaborate closely with Ginninderra Catchment Group and Southern ACT Catchment Group to coordinate community engagement in Natural Resource Management projects within the ACT.

Landcare ACT was more recently initiated by the ACT's three catchment groups to help provide support for over 60 community Landcare groups across the ACT and in surrounding NSW. Molonglo Conservation Group also operates in both the Southern Highlands/ACT region and the South East Landcare region of Landcare NSW. Both Landcare ACT and Landcare NSW are part of the National Landcare Network along with the Landcare peak bodies from each State and Territory.

The Molonglo Conservation Group has evolved through several operational structures and reviews of our governance arrangements since 2003, amending our constitution to allow us to generate more resources that better reflect the effort expended by our Board and Staff, our member networks, volunteers and our partners. We have renamed the Management Committee as the Board of Directors, consistent with the increasing level of accountability of our directors under corporation law. That step includes providing the Board delegation powers to a CEO so that, when the time is right, the Group can continue building its inherent capacity to provide greater value to funds we receive for strategic projects for the benefit of our members.