

V3.1 GUNNING DISTRICT LANDCARE - PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS AND ACTIVITIES 2026-2029

Goals	Priority Areas of Focus	On-going activities	Planned activities
1, 2, 3	1. Threatened species Work with community, scientists, partners and relevant agencies by commissioning, designing and/or implementing conservation strategies for locally threatened species.	• Conserve the threatened Southern Pygmy Perch by implementing the recommendations from the local action plan • “Mates of Mundoonen” program surveying and protecting native wildlife, particularly koalas and the Spotted Quail-thrush, in the Mundoonen Nature Reserve • Advocate for the plight of endangered species in our District through media, case studies, and/or open dialogue with partners	• Update 2017 Southern Pygmy Perch action plan; continue science for the SPP - surveys, habitat mapping etc; hold a Muster with other parties working with SPP • Care for threatened species in the Gunning District; create an information booklet to distribute to landholders and residents
1, 2, 3	2. Biodiversity and landscape function Collaborate with landholders to plant climate-ready revegetation (native shrubs, trees and grasses) to increase biodiversity and landscape function, and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of local natural areas, including in towns.	• Continue to offer an annual Paddock Tree Project • Contribute to the ongoing conservation and enhancement of the Gunning and Dalton bush blocks • Keep the Habitat Connectivity Prioritisation Plan active and implemented • Support and participate in YAN’s Climate Ready Revegetation project • Provide education resources to the community on what connectivity is and why it is important to our landscape function	• Maintain, enhance, and extend restoration works in high priority riparian areas such as Oolong Creek • Contribute to and advise on new local urban planning and development to encourage a focus on conservation, regeneration and improved biodiversity • Work with local residential communities to investigate and implement projects, such as rain gardens • Provide support towards the prevention of and recovery from natural disasters, such as bushfires, drought and flooding, and provide advice on strategies for not exacerbating a disaster, such as avoiding the planting of volatile trees • Offer new subsidised opportunities for landholders in a “habitat connectivity toolkit” (eg. vegetation stepping stones and improved farm dams)

Goals	Priority Areas of Focus	On-going activities	Planned activities
1, 2, 3	3. Pests and weeds Work closely with landholders and relevant agencies on biosecurity threats, and provide advocacy, communication and education surrounding pests and weeds to increase the effectiveness of eradication strategies.	- Support pest animal management including the Feral Fox Fighters program - Provide advice to the community on new biosecurity threats such as the Hog Deer	- Work collaboratively to manage designated weeds and pest animals, with a particular focus on emerging weeds - Work closely with LLS to communicate biosecurity duty, improve community access to existing LLS services, and actively promote pest species control programs at the local level
1, 2, 3	4. Aboriginal Engagement Build relationships and connections with local Aboriginal groups and communities, and encourage increased participation and partnership opportunities.	- Work with Aboriginal community members on conservation enhancement and traditional land management practices - Acknowledge the presence and participation of Aboriginal people, and their sovereign link to Country at GDL events and activities	- Cultural burning workshops and practical examples - Work with SEL in the implementation of the 2027 Aboriginal Partnerships Grant Program in the Gunning District - Build genuine relationships between GDL employees/members/volunteers and Aboriginal community members, recognising that fostering their trust in GDL is an active and long-term commitment
3, 4	5. Volunteers and Members Maintain support for and acknowledge the value of volunteers and members and the importance of their safety and wellbeing, and build their skills, capacity and shared knowledge.	- Look at how our activities could attract diverse peoples and motivate all generations to get involved - Engage with SEL Community of Practice - Organise and promote member attendance at training opportunities - Promote good WHS at GDL activities and training for volunteers	- Implement recognition opportunities for those who have made an outstanding contribution to GDL, such as life membership - Align with Gunning District events to promote opportunities for volunteering - Better understand our members and volunteers and their aspirations for GDL through a survey attached to our membership application renewal form process
2, 3	6. Public education and engagement Hold relevant forums and hands-on workshops, and school holiday programs for young people, and sharing information, knowledge and resources.	- Extend the program of forums and workshops, tailored to local needs and interests including climate change - Continue to support educational practice-based opportunities with schools/programs for children at the Gunning Showground Bush Block.	- Organise a major informative and thought-provoking event annually, such as what it means for ULSC to be a Carbon Neutral Shire - Secure sustainable support/funding for project management of school holiday programming - Provide town residents with a "local identification and habitat enhancement" brochure

Goals	Priority Areas of Focus	On-going activities	Planned activities
		Provide information on and links to Citizen Science apps to build understanding and appreciation of local ecology and biodiversity	
1, 2, 3	7. Partnerships Build on and nurture existing fruitful partnerships, as well as establish new ones in order to increase our ability and capacity to deliver on-ground initiatives and activities.	- Develop and maintain joint activities with Yass Area, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn Landcare Networks - Support efforts by South East Landcare to secure funding for regional-wide partnership initiatives that will benefit the Gunning District	- Promote in-practice the principles of co-design to enable ownership for all members and partners in future programs - Maintain existing partnerships and foster new ones to support new initiatives
2, 3	8. Promotion and Advocacy Build awareness of GDL within our community, ULSC, partners and stakeholders by regularly communicating and promoting our purpose and activities, highlighting community-led achievements, and maintaining a presence online and on social media.	- Tell our story by profiling and promoting the outcomes of projects undertaken by volunteers and members - Provide information on topics, research, workshops and other activities relevant to the Gunning District through a monthly online newsletter - GDL information stall at District events and shows	- Host an event in Dalton to celebrate 30 years since planting of trees on Bevendale Road - Invite politicians to key GDL events and send an update on key outcomes twice a year
3, 4	9. Operational sustainability Seek funding through grants from State and Federal Government departments and agencies, and from philanthropic foundations, and other similar bodies through our Deductible Gifts Register status, to expand our impact on the ground.	- Work closely with South East Landcare to: implement Phase 3 of the current LEP program - implement the Aboriginal Partnerships Grant Program - secure ongoing funding through the Landcare Enabling Program (LEP) to support GDL's part-time professional coordinator and other professional activities	- Apply for funding from a variety of sources for existing and new projects - Investigate fundraising opportunities - Measure and communicate GDL's outcomes in relation to the characteristics of our District (i.e. small population base but projects/membership manage thousands of hectares)
4	10. Governance Evidence energy, leadership and clarity of focus, and ensure that Gunning District Landcare's organisational structures are healthy and can sustain our actions, maintain full accountability and discharge our Constitutional responsibilities in a professional manner.	- Review Committee composition and renewal, and support induction and training in fundamental governance, legal compliance, strategic planning, risk management and WHS - Support the wellbeing and professional development of the part-time GDL Coordinator, including the development of their capacity and capability, and their knowledge and skills	Review existing policies and create new ones as appropriate

Goals	Priority Areas of Focus	On-going activities	Planned activities
		• Work with SEL to develop and implement effective methodologies for monitoring the implementation of major activities and evaluating their impact	