

# Mitta Valley Landcare Strategic Plan

2019 - 2021



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## Summary

The Mitta Valley Landcare group is a local volunteer Landcare group located in the Mitta Valley of North East Victoria. The group contains a diversity of members from primary producers (mainly beef and dairy) to retirees and rural residential members. In the last few years the group has successfully completed a number of activities. This Strategic Plan has been developed by the group in May/June 2019 based on a facilitated strategic planning meeting held at Eskdale to guide the group's activities for the next few years.



# Vision

*A magnificent Mitta Valley with healthy landscapes and a vibrant community.*

# Mission

*To improve the natural resources of the Mitta Valley and to support the farm communities of the Valley to be socially and financially viable.*

# Recent Activities

The Group has been active in the last few years completing a number of projects and activities including:

- Land management workshops on deer and blackberry management
- A Dung Beetle project and workshops
- A soils project
- Various revegetation and fencing projects
- Activities with the local primary schools
- Family days and social events
- Natural Flora and Fauna Education walks

# Priority Activities 2019-2021

Based on the strategic planning meeting, the following priority activities were identified for the next 12 - 24 months:

Activity	Comments	Priority*
<b>Weed Control</b>	A number of main weed problems exist in the Mitta Valley region including Blackberries and an emerging Couch Grass issue. The Group currently focus on Blackberries and this continues to be a priority issue, with a focus on biological control opportunities for a wide range of weeds.	1
<b>Vertebrate Pest Management</b>	Deer and rabbits are a major pest issue in the valley and the management of this issue is an ongoing priority for the group.	2
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Getting more people interested in Landcare activities, natural resource management, ecological awareness and sustainable agriculture is a key priority for the group. Key specifics include engaging with schools and with primary producers (dairy and beef).	2
<b>Soil &amp; Land Management</b>	This continues to be a priority issue for the group. It includes erosion, soil biology and identification of and restoration of wetland habitats as key focuses. We wish to broaden out this strategic priority on a year round basis to include the importance of Dung Beetle activity and the species relevant to our environment.	3
<p>Other activities highlighted at the strategy meeting were: improving pasture management; fostering community cohesion; helping landholders with grant applications; strategic planning of NRM issues such as weeds, erosion and vertebrate pests.</p>		

\* Priority level is based on how many times an issue was listed as a top three issue by planning participants.

The group will need to develop an *Annual Group Work Plan* with specific Projects, Goals and Actions to carry out the Priority Activities for the next 1 to 2 years.

## Strengths

The Mitta Valley has a number of strengths to help it achieve its goals. These were discussed at the Strategic meeting and include:

- The group has already achieved a lot and has the capacity to complete projects,
- The group has passion and commitment to the Valley.
- The group has a diverse set of skills and knowledge.
- The group has a good network across the Valley.
- The group has a supportive Landcare Facilitator.
- The group has strong shared values to supporting the Valley and its community.

## Barriers

The group also has some barriers to achieving positive outcomes:

- Lack of new people entering the group
- Aging of group. No younger people coming in.
- Reduced level of government support.
- Reduced engagement from primary producers.
- Members are very busy so hard to find volunteer time.
- Reliance on a few core members for meetings and leadership.