

The Hon. Tony Burke MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Minister for Population

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Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony Burke today announced further funding for Landcare community-based environmental and sustainable agriculture projects.

"Community Landcare groups across Australia dedicate their time to caring for the environment and increasing the productivity of our farming land," Mr Burke said.

"The hard work being done by thousands of volunteers plays a vital role in helping Australia deal with critical issues such as climate change, food security and sustainable agriculture.

"The Rudd Government has committed up to \$5 million to make sure that smaller, community-based Landcare groups can continue their excellent work."

Under the Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program, an additional 49 Landcare projects will share in more than \$876,000.

These projects are in addition to the 299 Community Action Grants projects worth almost \$5 million announced recently with Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett.

The Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program provides grants of between \$5000 and \$20,000 to help local community groups to conserve and protect their natural environment.

"These Landcare projects will help community groups continue vital work in improving farm productivity and sustainable land management practices, removing weeds, controlling pest plant and animal species and improving soil quality and revegetation," Mr Burke said.

A complete list of successful 2009-10 Caring for our Country Community Action Grants projects is available at