

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Landcare Australia leads partnership to rehabilitate Northern NSW Peel River Anabranch**

Landcare Australia will lead a partnership between the Australian Government, NSW Government, community groups and land holders to complete vital remediation and protection work on the invaluable Wallamore Anabranch along the Peel River in Northern NSW.

More than one million dollars in funding and in-kind contributions have been committed to this project by partners: Landcare Australia, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), North West Local Land Services, Wallamore Landcare Group, Lion Dairy, and the 20 Million Trees Programme.

Landcare Australia CEO, Tessa Jakszewicz, said that the partnership showed a true commitment of all involved to stopping erosion and managing the environmental, agricultural and economic asset that is the Wallamore Anabranch of Peel River, part of the Murray-Darling Basin.

“This is a vital part of the Naomi catchment, a part of the Murray-Darling Basin. Rehabilitating and protecting the Wallamore Anabranch for future environmental and agricultural health and prosperity is vital,” Ms Jakszewicz said.

“Under Landcare Australia’s guidance, stabilisation works will be undertaken at key erosion points along the anabranch to reverse the significant damage that has occurred along the banks.

“Once these important measures are complete, Landcare will continue to supervise the staged completion of works, including run-off control, riparian revegetation, agricultural fencing, off-site watering and on-going maintenance activities, over a period of 24 months.

“This project was made possible, in part, by the Borland Bequest made to Landcare Australia in 2009. The bequest from the late Mr Raymore Borland contributed \$350,000 towards the project, honouring Mr Borland’s request for the funding to be used rehabilitation of degraded natural environments in rural lands and non tidal parts of river systems.”

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, said addressing issues like erosion was one of the strategies used to build the overall health of the Murray-Darling Basin.

“We’re working with Landcare Australia and the New South Wales Government to deliver this remediation project – they have already implemented similar projects upstream and are well-placed to deliver these measures effectively,” Mr Joyce said.

“These measures are complementary to the significant investments we’re making under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, and all our efforts towards healthy waterways are aimed at the triple bottom lines of economic, social and environmental benefits.”

The project will commence work in February 2016, with the engagement of contractors to undertake primary stabilisation of the eroded river banks.

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**About Landcare Australia**

Landcare Australia Ltd is the leading not-for-profit organisation responsible for raising awareness and funding for the Landcare movement to support its role in protecting, restoring and sustaining the productivity and value of Australia’s natural environment.

The Landcare movement is made up of more than 6000 Landcare and Coastcare volunteer groups that work on environmental projects in their local communities. The groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella are varied in nature and don’t necessarily include Landcare in their names, including our sub-brand Coastcare, as well as productive farming groups, ‘Friends of’, Bushcare, Rivercare, Dunecare and indigenous ranger groups.

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