



MEDIA RELEASE

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

Public hearing on Caring for Our Country and Landcare

Environmental protection and restoration programs operated through Caring for Our Country (CfoC) and Landcare will be on the agenda at a public hearing of the House of Representatives Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry Committee next week.

CfoC assists natural resource management groups, including Landcare groups, to improve biodiversity, sustainable farming practices and to improve the state of the environment generally. Following an evaluation the federal government has committed \$2 billion to the program from 2013-18.

Landcare assists businesses to work with local communities on environmental restoration and repair projects and to run national campaigns, such as Landcare Week, Coastcare Week and the National Landcare Awards.

Committee chair Dick Adams said: “the CfoC and Landcare initiatives are important mechanisms that assist landholders to enhance the biodiversity and agricultural viability of their land.”

“These programs also contribute to the environmental stewardship capabilities of rural and indigenous communities,” Mr Adams said.

Responsibility for granting project funds and achieving outcomes is shared between the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC).

The committee will hear evidence from representatives of DAFF and SEWPaC commencing at 5:15pm on Wednesday 13 February 2013 in Committee Room 1R3 at Parliament House in Canberra.

Further information about the inquiry is available on the committee’s website at:
www.aph.gov.au/arff

To view on webcast, go to: [http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or 0418 132 828 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

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