

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 38  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Regional NRM organisations  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 23 February 2015  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator McKenzie asked:**

1. How is the implementation of the National Landcare Advisory Committee going to ensure that the Regional National Resource Management (NRM) Organisations comply with Minister Hunt's directive that "Landcare is central to the AG's NRM policies and programs"?
2. How can "self-assessment" by the Regional NRM Organisations of the quality and extent of their community engagement and collaboration be expected to work?

**Answer:**

1. The National Landcare Advisory Committee (NLAC) provides advice on the National Landcare Programme to the Natural Heritage Ministerial Board, comprised of the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, and the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP. The NLAC advises on funding priorities, implementation and objectives, including how the design and delivery of the National Landcare Programme is achieving the Government's key principles of simple, local and long-term. While it is the responsibility of the Department of the Environment to implement the Minister's directive, it is informed by NLAC advice.
2. The annual self-assessments by regional NRM organisations against the Australian Government's Performance Expectations will help the organisations and the Department of the Environment to identify strengths and opportunities for improvements, including in community engagement. Regional NRM organisations are encouraged to consult with their stakeholders, including the local community, in undertaking their self-assessment.

The Australian Government will use the self-assessments to inform and support a formal performance review process. A performance review framework is currently being developed by the Department of the Environment in close consultation with the Department of Agriculture, NLAC, regional NRM organisations, community groups and others in the NRM sector.