

Resurrecting Defunct Landcare Groups

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



How Coleambally Landcare was resurrected after 9 years.

The issue

Coleambally Landcare Group had been an active local force for environmental stewardship until a problematic grant acquittal in 2017 undermined confidence and momentum. The experience left members disheartened and uncertain about governance and compliance processes, with no clear succession plan or formal closure procedure, the group gradually became inactive. By the end of 2017, meetings and on ground activities had ceased entirely. Despite ongoing community interest in Landcare values, the groups formal governance structure was dormant, leaving the region without a cohesive volunteer body to coordinate natural resource management and community-driven environmental initiatives.

The solution

With the arrival of a new local Landcare Coordinator under Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc, efforts were made to understand and address the historical challenges. Community consultations were held to gauge local interest and identify past barriers to success. An investigation into the groups governance was conducted with assistance from NSW Fair Trading to ensure compliance with incorporate association requirements. Administrative processes, records and registrations were reviewed and updated. Through careful facilitation and mentoring, a new executive committee was formed. Clear operating guidelines are being established, and we can officially state that Coleambally Landcare Group is reinstated and active.

The impact

The revival of Coleambally Landcare Group has renewed local enthusiasm for collaborative environmental action. With strong governance structures and transparent processes now in place, community members feel confident to re-engage. The group's reactivation provides a platform for local landholders, schools, and community partners to reconnect around shared sustainability goals. Early outcomes include revitalised partnerships, increased volunteer participation, and new project proposals focused in the urban setting. The case highlights how strategic support, good governance and community-led leadership can successfully resurrect a once dormant Landcare group and strengthen regional stewardship for the future.



Key facts

- Coleambally Landcare Group became dormant in 2017.
- An investigation was launched into the governance and reporting requirements of the group.
- Coleambally Landcare Group have elected a new executive committee.

Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.