



*"Many hands...one voice"*

## **Media Release: ACT Catchment Groups welcome ACT Government support**

'Community landcare in the ACT plays a very important role in protecting the environment and the ACT Government's support to the three ACT Catchment Groups (Southern ACT, Ginninderra and Molonglo) of \$125,000 each, for 2020-2021, is welcomed,' says Dr Maxine Cooper, Chair Landcare ACT.

Dr Cooper said 'Now is a challenging time for our environment and people, we have had drought, unprecedented bushfires, been shrouded in smoke and locked down due to COVID-19. Getting out to help nature is good for our environment and all of us. We can look forward to our catchment groups encouraging us all to get out.'

Catchment Groups contribute over \$2 million in mobilising volunteers towards protecting the ACT and Region environment. They also leverage over \$2 million per year for the region in the form of grants, partnerships and donations for natural and cultural resource management programs. They operate across land tenure with Aboriginal custodians, land managers and the community to achieve 'whole of landscape' results

'Our Catchment Chairs, Ms Glenys Patulny (Southern ACT), Dr Karen Williams (Molonglo) and Mr Sandy Lolicato, join with me in recognizing and celebrating the work of our landcarers and are committed to working in partnership with many organizations, including with the ACT Government.' says Dr Cooper.

Ms Patulny, said 'Catchment groups have been actively working with local communities undertaking many activities from hands-on field work to citizen science - all important in protecting our environment. This funding complements previously announced Waterwatch funding and I am pleased we will be able to continue supporting local community groups in 2020-2021'

'The funding announcement will enable the Catchment Groups to continue to work cooperatively with the Aboriginal custodians, community, governments, private and public sectors in continuing to build environmental stewardship across all land tenures and progress the ACT and region towards a more sustainable future' says Dr Williams.

'Catchment Groups play an important role in coordinating local activities to protect the environment, foster sustainable agriculture, promote the value of Aboriginal heritage, and mitigate the effects of climate change. All important in improving urban livability and biodiversity and keeping Canberra's bush character,' says Mr Lolicato.

Ms Karissa Preuss, CEO, Landcare ACT (0412206491 [ceo@landcareact.org.au](mailto:ceo@landcareact.org.au)) is available for an interview or can be contacted to arrange interviews with other landcarers.