



BUNANYUNG  
LANDSCAPE  
ALLIANCE

DRAFT

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**STAGE 3**  
**Three year**  
**IMPLEMENTATION**  
**PLAN**

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NOVEMBER • 2019



## Preamble

The Bunanyung Landscape Alliance launched its draft Establishment Document and Strategic Plan in November 2018. In April 2019 it formalised its Board and became incorporated. In July 2019 it held its first community forum as an established body and sought community feedback on its directions to date and its future plans.

This three-year plan is to demonstrate how we intend to achieve our goals. *Note these milestones were prepared in 2019. The impact of Covid has significantly stretched the proposed timelines.*

## The Bunanyung Landscape Alliance

The 'Alliance' seeks to build capacity across the community to increase enthusiasm to achieve landscape-scale ecological restoration in order to arrest the decline of, and ultimately augment, biodiversity across the Moorabool, Leigh and Woody Yaloak catchments. It intends to achieve this by brokering resources for established community groups and prioritise the allocation of these resources to projects that have a high prospect of delivering positive, regional-scale biodiversity outcomes. It intends to report on its success in achieving these goals by reference to a developing understanding of the ecological assets of the region developed through a co-ordinated monitoring and research program.

## Vision

*Bunanyung Landscape Alliance — healthy landscapes, resilient communities*

## Mission

The Bunanyung Landscape Alliance is the community's advocate for our environment. In partnership with our stakeholders, we assist in the development and implementation of shared, evidence-based, visionary landscape-scale projects that protect and enhance our natural environment. These projects will reflect the aspirations of our local member groups and our goal of engaging the broader community.

## Our Goals

### The next steps — actions and timelines

The Establishment Document and Strategic Plan captured the spirit and intentions of the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance and provided a strong foundation to inform Stage 3 of the journey for the Alliance, namely the formal establishment of the Alliance, and its associated entities and programs. The following actions outline the next steps for the Alliance. Some of these goals are not yet completed and remain a priority.

#### **a. Establish Bunanyung Landscape Alliance Incorporated and the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance Forum — by 30 December 2018**

The Board was established on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the City Oval Hotel, Ballarat. The formal entity of Bunanyung Landscape Alliance Incorporated was subsequently finalised.

#### **b. Establish partnerships between BLA Inc and local groups/networks/organisations — by 30 April 2019**

Funding to support this formalisation phase will be sought from the Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria (NRCL), Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), State of Victoria and other potential funding avenues (see Appendix J. BLA — Alliance Memorandum of Understanding).

#### **c. Deliver two BLA Forums — by 30 June 2019**

The first Bunanyung Landscape Alliance Community forum was held at Clarendon on July 17, 2019. There were 29 attendees and discussions took place across three broad themes:

- Connections across the landscape;
- Connecting health outcomes with biodiversity outcomes through integrated priorities;
- Monitoring project outcomes — integrated monitoring program collecting data in real time,

a project of five or more years' duration.

#### **d. Create the online resources portal — by 30 March 2019**

Work with the Corangamite Catchment Management Agency and the Centre for e-Research and Digital Innovation at Federation University Australia to create the online Natural Resource Management (NRM) portal for The Alliance (see Appendix G. Bunanyung Landscape Alliance mapping project). Support was provided via CCMA. The online portal is available to the Alliance Board.

#### **e. Work to secure additional project funds for The Alliance — by 30 June 2020**

Building upon the outcomes and directions of the Alliance Forums and associated activities undertaken by The Alliance, BLA Inc will actively seek to boost funding to support projects of interest to local groups/organisations/networks by 30 June 2020. Multiple avenues for funding will be investigated including:

- BLA Inc-led funding applications on behalf of The Alliance;
- BLA Inc assistance in shaping funding applications led by local groups/organisations/networks within The Alliance
- Investigating opportunities for BLA Inc to act as a devolved funding body to support projects undertaken by local groups/organisations/networks within The Alliance;
- Options for linking with the Ballarat Environment Fund, a generic sub-fund with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status established and administered by the Ballarat Foundation.

## Opportunities and priorities

The Establishment Document and Strategic Plan outlined the needs for the Alliance to focus on and addressed opportunities and priorities that have been identified. The latter are embraced by three key themes: Connections across Landscapes, Future Landscapes and Connecting Communities.

### a) Connections across Landscapes

- The Alliance will work to increase the profile of our unique regional landscape and its importance to connect Central Victoria and the South West environs.

### b) Future Landscapes

- Present knowledge arising from research on effective landscape restoration practice will enable the adoption of ecological restoration practices that may include to:
  - Effectively control invasive weeds prior to indigenous restoration planting;
  - Maximise the diversity of plantings to limit the dominance of aggressive fauna and adaptable invasive species;
  - Mixing trees with shrub and ground-layer species including, sedges, grasses and forbs to provide resources for a broad diversity of native fauna species;
  - Employ a ‘habitat patch’ design including gaps tailored to particular species needs, e.g. for reptiles to bask thereby attracting predatory birds;
  - Connect high-quality habitat remnants with linear plantings and structures that facilitate movement of biota;
  - Plant buffers around high-quality patches to reduce edge effects and increase the area of effective habitat;
  - Restore the hydrology and geomorphic profile of streams to restore valley substrates for diverse plantings;
  - Enhance riparian habitats by planting with a diverse array of flora relevant to site and climate, including rushes and sedges, shrubs and trees;
  - Use structures and plantings to stabilise riparian zones to mitigate bank erosion and prevent the input of stock waste to streams.

### c) Connecting Communities

- Build and enhance the capacity and effectiveness of individuals, groups, networks and organisations to undertake on-ground, community-engagement and related NRM works;
- Advocate for the strategic priorities and needs of local individuals, groups, networks and organisations;
- Provide key stakeholders such as CMAs, councils and statutory authorities with a strategic point of contact with respect to NRM and community engagement;
- Act as a vehicle for value adding and aggregating investment in NRM by having the capacity

to work at a landscape level, supporting coordinated and integrated local actions into the larger landscape framework and vision;

- Support and promote community education, health and wellbeing initiatives.

## Principles

The Alliance operates under the following principles:

- We advocate for the environment

*Reflecting the aspirations of and in partnership with our local member groups, we will develop and implement coordinated landscape - scale projects to protect and enhance our environment.*

- We support expansion of community capability

*Through demonstrating and sharing practical science, we will build community expertise and knowledge to enable improved restoration effort; and by addressing community group skill deficit priorities we will help to build capacity and succession for groups to maintain momentum and viability.*

- We enable practical research and evidence- based restoration effort

*In partnership with our stakeholders, we will coordinate practical research for our community to gain a better understanding of our biota, share restoration science to address landscape scale issues and enable better management of our natural environment.*

## Key elements of an Alliance project

We have identified the key aspects of a great Alliance project:

- Online data portal (CeRDI)/mapping capacity)
- Community Engagement
- Research and Monitoring
- Project Management funding
- Ongoing funding
- External Partnership



## Milestones

In order to achieve our goals for the implementation phase, we have established milestones to assist with the planning, reporting and reviewing of our programs.

### **Milestone 1. End-Dec 2019**

- Prepare Implementation proposal and work to secure initial implementation funds (multicriteria analysis to prioritise actions)
- Secure initial support funds (NRCL — \$45K)
- Secure initial support funds (CCMA — \$5K)
- Appoint Interim EO

### **Milestone 2. End-June 2020** Transition Board to coordination and governance role

- Establish secretariat with community hub including appropriate resourcing
- Establish web presence and communication channels
- Finalise the online resources portal with CeRDI
- Establish DGR arrangements with Ballarat Foundation
- Establish research program and timelines
- Secure initial research funding
- Develop three-year business plan for implementation
- Laying the foundations of research, coordination, onground projects
- Prioritise projects against community benefit, investor benefit, environmental benefit, cost, time
- Deliver one BLA Forum
- Development of Memoranda of Understanding with community groups and partners
- Investigate further funding opportunities.

### **Milestone 3. July 2020 – June 2021**

- Establish business partnership with NRCL
- Establish business partnership with CCMA
- Resource essential staff to enable coordination and delivery of priority projects at scale
- Develop initial research program, including research doctoral candidates (\$32k per annum)
- Analyse and document community-group capabilities, knowledge and skills gaps/needs
- Develop and deliver training programs
- Develop onground projects
- Deliver two BLA Forums

### **Milestone 4. July 2021 – June 2022**

- Develop on-ground projects
- Deliver two BLA Forums
- Implement on-ground projects
- Develop and deliver training programs
- Implement additional research projects
- Report any research outcomes
- Report, review program and adapt on-ground programs

### **Milestone 5. July 2022 – June 2023**

- Deliver two BLA Forums
- Implement on-ground projects
- Report research outcomes
- Report, review program and adapt on-ground programs

- Develop next action plan.

## Operational Plan

The Bunanyung Landscape Alliance seeks to establish a team of staff to implement its vision and mission. This team will include leadership, administrative assistance, oversight of research, project management and resource procurement roles; and the development of spatial mapping through contract.

### Regional Mapping

Mapping of the region and past, present and planned NRM activities requires the development of a spatial data base and finalisation of the portal for community use. This will build on Biodiversity Response Planning activities being rolled out over the next year by DELWP - a process that will engage key stakeholders in identifying key biodiversity needs for future regional coordinated projects. The portal will provide a platform for Alliance activities, and it is expected that this task will require a **Landscape Mapping Consultant**. The task will require a contractor with technical skills who shares in the vision of the Alliance. It is anticipated that a budget of \$50,000 is required for the **Contractor** to assemble a complete spatial data base, to operationalise its use and to extend the technology to members of the Alliance community. This contract should be let early in 2020 to ensure operations have this tool in early phases of planning.

### Research Scholarships

The Alliance will seek **industry co-funded PhD scholarships** through Federation University Australia (and other universities) to ensure substantive research is undertaken to inform the operations of the Alliance. Initial funding for two industry scholarships is sought to initiate the Alliance research program and consolidate the relationship between the Alliance and its research partners. The Alliance has identified many potential research projects and, once funding contracts are completed, scholarships will be advertised to attract skilled researchers to the Federation University doctoral program. This will require the commitment of \$16,000 p.a. for each candidate for three years (\$96,000), to be matched by Federation University funds, and will attract, in-kind, three years of academic supervision from two university staff members.

It is anticipated that the Research and Monitoring Manager will be able to build on this model to acquire more research projects.

### Profile

While the Alliance will announce its presence through its website, email and community fora, it will gain exposure to regional leaders and community stakeholders through the establishment of an **Alliance Hub**.

### In-kind Contributions

The Alliance has secured a strong presence in the region through input from the Interim Committee, and now the Board. The contribution of the Alliance Board represents a high level of expertise as in-kind input into the development of partnerships, projects, community liaison and the development of a research and monitoring program.

In the research projects, there will be considerable in-kind input from the supervision load of academic staff to doctoral student projects as well as from agency staff through the reference committee.

Our community group partners will be instrumental in project development and delivery. Our business partners will provide invaluable technical and skills support.