

Landcare Agriculture Biodiversity in Action Grant - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning



Proposed monitoring framework for funded projects.

The following table provides a brief summary of the types of impacts different project activities might be expected to have, and the types of MEL activities we might use to assess the impact.

Landcare Australia provides suggestions of the type of data that could be collected; however, it will be your decision on what is most appropriate. Landcare Australia will work with the successful applicants to develop the MEL for their specific biodiversity project.

Social impacts: Landcare Australia will provide templates for monitoring the social impacts of projects. These will be able to be modified to meet specific needs of individual projects, however, there will be core data that Landcare Australia will require you to collect.

Environmental impacts: Measuring environmental impacts is likely to be unique to each project depending on the project time frame, focus area, etc. We provide suggestions of robust methods that could be used but it will be your decision as to what method is most appropriate. The method/s must be agreed with Landcare Australia before any on-ground work starts. Baseline data collection will be essential for all biodiversity action projects. Your project objectives and activities will determine additional data collection activities.

Production impacts: Measuring production and/or profitability impacts may be relevant to some projects. Collecting this data helps to demonstrate the link between biodiversity on-farm and productivity/profitability and is important to demonstrate a clear value proposition to farmers. As with measuring environmental indicators, it may be that only baseline data is able to be collected within your project timeframe.

MEL will be collected by the group and submitted to Landcare Australia via an online portal.

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Theme	Example impact areas	Examples of relevant project activities (this list is not comprehensive, but intended to highlight the kinds of activities)	Examples of MEL activities expected
Social	awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field days or case studies targeting broader community/industry 	Count and demographics of attendees; count of web-hosted video/case study views/downloads; post-event evaluation
	knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops for farmer group members On-farm trials/action 	Count and demographics of attendees; pre and post training program and/or on-farm activity evaluations
	adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops for farmer group members On-farm trials/action Developing management/action plans 	Count and demographics of attendees; pre and post training program and/or on-farm activity evaluations
	well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops for farmer group members On-farm trials/action 	Count and demographics of attendees; pre and post training program and/or on-farm activity evaluations
Environmental	soil health/biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action to improve/measure soil health/biology 	Agreed method for monitoring soil health/biology, which is based on a widely accepted method (e.g. northern rivers soil health card, Savory Institute ecological outcome verification, Accounting for Nature soil and sediment methods)
	biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action to improve/measure biodiversity 	Accounting for Nature methods, Farm-scale natural capital accounting, Farming for the Future
	aquatic condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action to improve/measure biodiversity 	Accounting for Nature methods, aquatic ecosystems toolkit
	plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action to improve/measure vegetation 	Accounting for Nature methods, Revegetation monitoring – Arthur Rylah Institute
	animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action to improve/measure native wildlife/birds 	Accounting for Nature methods, state and federal accepted survey methodologies
Production	market access / supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action Developing management/action plans Measuring biodiversity 	Farmer survey; interview supply chain reps
	productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action 	Farmer interviews
	profitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm trials/action 	Farmer interviews