



PRIME MINISTER

78/94

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP

NEW LANDCARE PROJECTS FUNDED

More than 700 new community environment projects are to be funded under the Federal Government's National Landcare Program.

The \$5 million in grants which will be funded under the Land and Water, One Billion Trees and Save the Bush elements of the National Landcare Program, will make it possible for communities to make a significant contribution to repairing the land.

Land degradation is one of our most serious national environmental problems. But this is an area where there is an historic alliance between farming and conservation groups and between all levels of government in support of a common aim.

Of the total funding \$2.5 million has been allocated to Land and Water projects, almost \$1 million to the One Billion Trees and \$1.5 million to Save the Bush.

The projects have been recommended by State and Territory Assessment Panels which are made up of community, state and local government representatives.

The remainder of the grants under the \$112 million Landcare program in 1994/95 are allocated to joint Commonwealth/State projects and research activities. Senator Collins will announce further details today of the \$72.95 million grants for new and continuing projects under the land and water elements of Landcare.

The National Landcare Program is a catalyst for mobilising information, skills and resources to improve the capacity of all land holders to manage their land in an economically viable and environmentally sustainable manner.

The Government has committed more than \$420 million during the Decade of Landcare (1990-2000) for Landcare and related tree planting and remnant vegetation conservation programs.

**NARROMINE, NSW
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