

Strengthening Community, Country and Legacy within the HumeLink Corridor

Murrumbidgee Landcare

Snowy Valleys

Funding requested: \$578,735.00

Summary: From Local Hands, For Local Lands is a community-driven project supporting environmental restoration along the HumeLink corridor. Based at a long-standing volunteer nursery, the initiative aims to improve safety and accessibility through essential upgrades - addressing uneven surfaces, poor lighting and lack of shelter that currently pose risks, especially for older or mobility-impaired volunteers. Planned improvements include concreting work areas, installing weather protection and creating a new potting zone. The nursery also plans to establish the region's first functional seed bank to preserve local plant genetics for future restoration, including areas affected by infrastructure projects. While recent bushfire recovery funding supported solar and water system upgrades, further investment is needed - such as 50,000L of additional water storage, a stronger pump, sediment-trapping troughs and expanded solar with battery backup. To grow its role as a community education hub, the nursery will convert an unlined garage into a climate-controlled, accessible learning space for workshops, school visits and events. A dedicated utility vehicle is also needed to transport volunteers, tools, and plants to remote sites - enabling hands-on conservation and community connection. .

Community value: Upgrading the Riverina Highlands Landcare Nursery will strengthen environmental stewardship, community resilience, and education across the Snowy Valleys Council and HumeLink region. Improved safety and accessibility will create a welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds, while a dedicated utility vehicle will extend engagement to off-site bush care and planting activities. Sustainable infrastructure upgrades - including solar power, expanded water storage, and aquatic plant facilities - will support Care for Country and climate resilience. A new seed bank will preserve local biodiversity and aid in ecological restoration, particularly in areas affected by infrastructure development. A modern, climate-controlled learning space will enable hands-on workshops in propagation, conservation, and land management, while mobile outreach will bring training to schools and remote communities. By fostering collaboration, learning, and action, the project builds a strong social legacy - developing skills, relationships, and a shared sense of purpose that will benefit the region well beyond the project's completion.



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