

As a response to the evidence of environmental degradation in the Murray-Darling Basin, the Landmark Project is looking for combinations of dryland land uses and farming practices that will assist producers to make a good living and create a healthy environment. The primary objective of Landmark is *“to identify the need for land use and land management change and explore policy responses which may facilitate change in broadacre dryland regions in the Murray-Darling Basin.”* This will be achieved by using sound science to inform good policy.

Landmark links with other sustainability initiatives

There are a number of other natural resource management projects and activities that have sustainability objectives or targets. Landmark is not alone, and needs to make links with these other projects/activities. Some of these projects/activities are listed below. However, we are aware this list is not exhaustive. Landmark will seek to develop effective links with these activities where such linkages will be mutually beneficial.

What existing Initiatives provide for Landmark

- **A scientific base and data for understanding natural resource management issues and options for change**, through initiatives such as the National Dryland Salinity Program, the National Land and Water Resources Audit and the Sustainable Grazing Systems Program. Organisations involved in these initiatives include the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC), Land and Water Australia, CSIRO, Grains R&D Corporation, Meat and Livestock Australia, Rural Industries R&D Corporation, along with regional organisations and federal, state and local governments.
- **A context for Landmark and its outputs**, through initiatives such as the MDBC’s Basin Salinity Management Strategy and Integrated Catchment Management Strategy, the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and related activities at a federal, state and regional level.

What Landmark provides for existing Initiatives

- **A scientific basis for decisions about land use and land management change** in dryland regions of the Basin
- **A range of policy options to support such change** for federal, state and local governments, regional organisations and rural industries.
- **Added value to existing initiatives** through:
 - integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable land use
 - working with industry and regional organisations to explore the implications and options for land use and land management change
 - liaison with policy stakeholders to identify and develop the policy options to implement that change

How Landmark will link and integrate with existing Initiatives

Landmark will maximise potential linkages with existing initiatives by:

- working closely with the MDBC, which coordinates a range of R&D and natural resource management activities in the Basin
- using the existing networks of the Project Steering Committee
- using the existing networks of the Task leaders
- maintaining communication with other initiatives
- identifying opportunities for joint or collaborative activities
- ensuring outputs and other project activities are designed to meet the needs of end users and key stakeholders

Relevant projects and initiatives

The most relevant projects or initiatives for Landmark are listed in the table below.

Project and lead organisation	Brief description
Integrated Catchment Management Strategy, MDBC	Outlines a strategy for communities and governments of the MDB to commit to do all that needs to be done to manage and use the resources of the Basin in a way that is ecologically sustainable.
Heartlands, CSIRO Land and Water	Implements a major program of land use change in four pilot regions, and monitors the effectiveness of such change in alleviating environmental degradation. (See the Landmark & Heartlands Fact Sheet for more info)
Redesigning Agriculture for Australian Landscapes, Land & Water Australia	Designs new farming systems and options for land use change in dryland agricultural regions.
National Dryland Salinity Program, Land & Water Australia	Researches, develops and extends practical approaches to address dryland salinity across Australia
National Action Plan for Salinity & Water Quality	Assist catchments to meet regional and Basin targets for salinity and water quality through a major works program
Basin Salinity Management Strategy, MDBC	Outlines a strategy to meet salinity targets in River Murray
Sustainable Grazing Systems, Meat & Livestock Australia	Addresses major production and sustainability issues facing the grazing industries at seven research sites
Catchment Characterisation Project, MDBC and CSIRO Land & Water	Classifies types of catchments, their risk from salinity, and management options to reduce risk
Dairy Catchments Australia, Dairy Research & Development Corporation	Proposes to work in seven dairy regions to look at the extent of improvement to economic, social and environmental outcomes from improved dairy farm management
Joint Venture Agroforestry Program, Rural Industries R&D Corporation	Seeks to integrate sustainable and productive agriculture into Australian farming systems
Ecosystems Services, CSIRO	Identifies, quantifies and places economic values on

Sustainable Ecosystems	ecosystem services provided by natural and altered systems
National Land and Water Resources Audit	Provides an extensive database of the nature, extent, cause, costs, benefits and impacts of land and water degradation in Australia – National focus
TOOLS for Managing Dryland Salinity, MDBC	This project has developed a Salinity Information package. Runs information and planning workshops for specific regions, catchments and industries across the Basin

Other key organisations

- Grains Research & Development Corporation: involved in supporting research and development for quality, productivity and environmental outcomes for Australia's grain industries. GRDC-funded research has a dryland agricultural focus and includes a significant soil and water program. The GRDC supports a range of experimental and farming systems experiments in northern, southern and western regions.
- Cooperative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology: has national research programs that include predicting catchment behaviour, land use impacts on rivers, sustainable water allocation, urban stormwater quality, climate variability and river restoration.
- Land & Water Australia: supports a national R&D program that focuses on primary industries, vegetation, rivers, future landscapes and other aspects of natural resource management.

For further information:

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Visit the new Landmark website at www.landmark.mdbc.gov.au, or contact: Communication Task Leader, David Clarke, Efect, on 03 5348 4900 or email david@efect.com.au

This is one of a series of regularly updated Landmark fact sheets. The full series is available on the Landmark website

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