



Ordinary Meeting of Council

SUPPLEMENTARY

AGENDA

13 December 2017

Commencing at 5:30pm

**Council Chambers
253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan**

****On-site Inspections****

“Nil”

S SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

- S.1 Riparian Restoration for Threatened Species and Communities in the ACT
and Queanbeyan Region.....3

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS –

(Copies available from CEO/General Manager's Office on request)

Open Attachments

Nil

Closed Attachments

Nil

S.1 Riparian Restoration for Threatened Species and Communities in the ACT and Queanbeyan Region (Ref: C17194163; Author: Thompson/Overall)

Summary

Council has been approached by The Molonglo Catchment Group (MCG) seeking support and partnership in two upcoming funding submissions.

The first is an Expression of Interest submission to the National Landcare Program Phase Two (NLP2). This is a large project of approximately \$900,000 over 5 years. This is a real engagement and long term contribution to improving and protecting our riparian areas. The application is aimed at complementing current and future capital works in and around priority waterways by providing:

- Threatened Species Services;
- Threatened ecological communities services; and
- Soil, Biodiversity and Vegetation services.

The second is a combination of Smart Farms Partnership Grants looking at regional property planning for fragile lands in Burra, Integrated Land Management and Weed Control. This is an education program of approximately \$1,500,000 over 5 Years.

MCG will lead these projects, engaging stakeholders to achieve priority outcomes and activities.

Recommendation

That Council undertake the following actions:

- 1. Provide a letter of support and partnership for the Riparian Restoration NLP2 Expression of Interest.**
 - 2. Prepare a letter of support and partnership for the Smart Farms Grants application.**
 - 3. That the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee be briefed on the projects at the next meeting.**
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Background

The National Landcare Program is a key part of the Australian Government's commitment to protect and conserve Australia's water, soil, plants, animals and ecosystems, as well as support the productive and sustainable use of these valuable resources.

Large regional grants are being made available to groups to nationally address problems such as:

- loss of vegetation
- soil degradation
- the introduction of pest weeds and animals
- changes in water quality and flows and
- changes in fire regimes.

MCG has identified the following priority outcomes and linked activities:

S.1 Riparian Restoration for Threatened Species and Communities in the ACT and Queanbeyan Region (Ref: C17194163; Author: Thompson/Overall) (Continued)

- Protection and enhancement of threatened species and communities of Box-Gum woodlands and Natural Temperate Grassland, including habitats of Pink Tailed Worm Lizard and Grasslands Earless Dragon, Swift Parrot and Regent Honey Eater.
- Increase biodiversity, connectivity, plant and animal biosecurity
- Strategically support the work undertaken by peak stakeholder groups, volunteers, landholders and managers.
- Build community understanding about catchment health to promote behaviour change through a broad range of communication and education strategies.
- Promote engagement in Aboriginal NRM through:
 - Sharing of cultural knowledge on Country and meaningful involvement in land management decision making in the ACT by traditional custodians
 - Greater involvement from traditional custodians to support better known, well managed and protected cultural sites
 - Implementation of traditional land management practices in native grasslands, wetlands and woodland areas by the Aboriginal community where appropriate.

Implications***Environmental***

The two regional programs fit in with Councils objectives and management plans.

Strategic

The Government program is intended to reform the regional delivery component of the National Landcare Program to deliver greater focus on outcomes and improve reporting.

The current Regional Stream of the National Landcare Program ends on 30 June 2018. Regional Land Partnerships replaces the Regional Stream of the current National Landcare Program. The departments are working towards an outcome for the proposed competitive and open tender for Regional Land Partnerships with sufficient time to enable a transition period for all stakeholders. Current grantees under the Regional Stream may no longer receive National Landcare Program funding from 30 June 2018 if they do not tender or are unsuccessful.

Service delivery for the Regional Land Partnerships is proposed to commence 1 July 2018.

Regional-scale delivery will be maintained under Regional Land Partnerships. However, there is a need to explore ways to increase efficiencies and improve reporting, shift towards more strategic investment, and thus address some of the stakeholder concerns.

Engagement

Project partners for the Riparian project include the ACT Government, MCG, local Landcare Groups (including Queanbeyan, Majura Valley, Reedy Creek, Royalla and Carwoola), local aboriginal groups, Local Land Services (SE LLS), Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), Greening Australia and the

S.1 Riparian Restoration for Threatened Species and Communities in the ACT and Queanbeyan Region (Ref: C17194163; Author: Thompson/Overall) (Continued)

broader Community. will actively work with the community in delivering the Services. A large range of stakeholders will be engaged in delivering the Services including: private land/lease holders; state and local governments; NRM delivery organisations; grower groups and industry bodies; Traditional Owners and their representative organisations; and local community groups, including Landcare groups, with an interest in particular sites and environmental assets.

The Smart Farms Partnership project is an outreach education project complementing Council's Authorised Officers.

Conclusion

That Council should support and become a partner on these regional investment initiatives.

Attachments

Nil