



PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT TRUST (POET) COMMITTEE

14 December 2023



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028

ONE – CENTRAL COAST IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) FOR THE CENTRAL COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

ONE – CENTRAL COAST DEFINES THE COMMUNITY'S VISION AND IS OUR ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

ONE – CENTRAL COAST BRINGS TOGETHER EXTENSIVE COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO SET KEY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

One - Central Coast will shape and inform Council's business activities, future plans, services and expenditure. Where actions are the responsibility of other organisations, sectors and groups to deliver, Council will work with key partners to advocate on behalf of our community.

Ultimately, every one of us who live on the Central Coast has an opportunity and responsibility to create a sustainable future from which we can all benefit. Working together we can make a difference.

RESPONSIBLE

WE'RE A RESPONSIBLE COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED TO BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND DELIVERING A GREAT CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE IN ALL OUR INTERACTIONS.

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision making and expenditure, particularly around the delivery of essential infrastructure projects that increase the safety, liveability and sustainability of our region. We're taking a strategic approach to ensure our planning and development processes are sustainable and accessible and are designed to preserve the unique character of the coast.

 **Good governance and great partnerships**

G2 Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making

There are 5 themes, 12 focus areas and 48 objectives

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2028 FRAMEWORK

All council reports contained within the Business Paper are now aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. Each report will contain a cross reference to a Theme, Focus Area and Objective within the framework of the Plan.

The infographic details the following structure:

- THEME: BELONGING**
 - Focus Area: OUR COMMUNITY (Objectives: G1, G2, G3, G4)
 - Focus Area: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Objectives: G5, G6)
- THEME: SMART**
 - Focus Area: A GROWING AND COMPETITIVE REGION (Objectives: C1, C2, C3, C4)
 - Focus Area: A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE (Objectives: O1, O2, O3, O4)
- THEME: GREEN**
 - Focus Area: ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING FOR THE FUTURE (Objectives: E1, E2, E3, E4)
 - Focus Area: INCREASED RAIN WATER RESILIENCE (Objectives: R1, R2)
- THEME: RESPONSIBLE**
 - Focus Area: GOOD GOVERNANCE AND GREAT PARTNERSHIPS (Objectives: G1, G2, G3, G4)
 - Focus Area: BELONGING THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE (Objectives: I1, I2, I3, I4)
 - Focus Area: SAFETY AND WELLBEING (Objectives: W1, W2, W3, W4)
- THEME: LIVEABLE**
 - Focus Area: RELIABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY (Objectives: P1, P2, P3, P4)
 - Focus Area: RUST AND RURAL LIFE (Objectives: R1, R2, R3, R4)
 - Focus Area: HEALTHY LIFESTYLES (Objectives: L1, L2, L3, L4)



Meeting Notice

**The Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee
of Central Coast Council
will be held Remotely – Online,
on Thursday 14 December 2023 at 2.00pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

1 Procedural Items

- 1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest..... 4
- 1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log..... 5

2 Reports

- 2.1 Update from Financials - 31 October 202319
- 2.2 Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland Progress Report.....21
- 2.3 Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land.....25
- 2.4 Grant Application POET009 202223 Hanging on by their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the former Gosford LGA.....41
- 2.5 Grant Application POET010 202223 Bush-stone Curlew and Estuary Birds - Education and Citizen Science56
- 2.6 General Business.....71

Gary Chestnut
Chairperson

**1.1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY,
APOLOGIES, DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**



Chairperson

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.
We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continued
connection to these lands and waterways.
We acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.*

1.2 PREVIOUS BUSINESS: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES, REVIEW ACTION LOG

Chairperson

Attachments

- 1   MINUTES - Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee D15850825
- 21 September 2023



Central Coast Council
Protection of the Environment Trust (POET)
Committee

Held
Online via TEAMS

21 September 2023

MINUTES

Attendance

Members

Gary Chestnut
Joy Cooper
Barbara Wills
Edward Hock

Status

Present, via TEAMS
Present, via TEAMS
Present, via TEAMS
Present, via TEAMS

Staff

Emma Galea
Garry Teesson
Larry Melican
Luke Sulkowski
Rochelle Lawson
Lisa Martin

Status

Present
Present
Present
Apology
Apology
Present

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1.1 Introduction: Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Disclosure of Interest

Gary Chestnut was requested by the Coordinator to Chair the meeting.

The Chairperson, Gary Chestnut, declared the meeting open at 12:30pm

The Chairperson welcomed the Committee and completed an Acknowledgement of Country.

The following apologies were received for the meeting:

Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager, Environmental Management

Rochelle Lawson, Senior Ecologist, Natural Assets and Biodiversity

The Chairperson called for any disclosures of interest. Barbara Wills declared membership of the MacMasters Beach Bush Care Group, but indicated that no conflict existed.

Minutes of the Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee of Council 21 September 2023 contd

1.2 Previous business: Confirmation of minutes, review action log

The group confirmed the minutes from the previous meeting as noted below, which were distributed to members via email and uploaded to Council's website:

[POET Minutes - 20 June 2023](#)

Review of the action log was completed and it is noted;

- Communications Plan – *review* – Joy Cooper
- Former Mayor Bell – Grant Request – *Status* - Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity
- Status Report – *list of applications (new and missed from last round)* - Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity
- Interest Accrued – *consider/develop a procedure* – CFO
- Donated sites – *organise an excursion* - Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity
- Umina Sandplain – *Progress Report* - Section Manager, Natural Assets and Biodiversity

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
103	1/07/2021	10 Year Plan for Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland to be revisited at applicable meeting in 2022.	Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity	<p>Update provided at the June 2022 meeting.</p> <p>Motion moved that the budget be confirmed for a 2-year period, as an alternative to the 3-year period proposed and that staff seek grants to compliment this.</p> <p>Moved – Gary Chestnut, Seconded – Joy Cooper</p> <p>Gary Chestnut suggested information provided regarding Council funds and expenditure for this project over 2 years.</p> <p>Action Peter Correy, Group Financial Controller, Finance to provide this financial report.</p> <p>Action: Distribution of report to Committee: <i>Action #103: Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland Year 1 (2021-22) Update and Revisit 10-year plan</i></p>	Complete
105	1/07/2021	15 Year Plan for Scenic Road Bushland Reserve Offset Area to be revisited at applicable meeting in 2022.	Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity	<p>Update provided at the June 2022 meeting.</p> <p>Committee agrees to adopt 15-year plan for Scenic Road Bushland Reserve Offset Area.</p>	Complete

Minutes of the Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee of Council 21 September 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				Distribution of report to Committee: <i>Action #105: Scenic Road Bushland Reserve Offset Area Year 1 (2021-22) update and revisit 15 year plan</i>	
107	1/07/2021	<p>Communications staff to attend next meeting to discuss opportunities for promoting the Trust including media releases about projects funded, encouraging ongoing philanthropic support through donations, and geo-targeting ads on Facebook.</p> <p>30 March 2023 meeting Consolidating items 107, 112, 115 and 122.</p> <p>30/3/2023 Draft communication Plan: Feedback needed from the committee no feedback received as of the meeting date.</p>	<p>Section Manager Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>Further update as at June 2022.</p> <p><i>Communications Plan POET 2021</i> to be re-distributed to Committee member with request to provide their feedback to be used in progressing the finalisation and then commence implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Committee expressed desire to explore out-of-session meeting (prior to next quarterly meeting of September 2022) to further process the marketing and promotional activities component.</p> <p>5 July 2023 Email sent to committee requesting feedback</p> <p>17 August 2023 Email sent to committee requesting feedback</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing 20/06/2023</p>

Minutes of the Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee of Council 21 September 2023 contd

Action Number	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Party	Action Update	Status
				<p>5 September 2023 Email sent to committee requesting feedback</p> <p>20/09/2023 feedback received from Barb Wills</p> <p>Target audience? I thought the comms team would be able to come up with more than 2 groups..</p> <p>picture of an Emu when there are none of the coast?</p> <p>Reputation risk assessment.. "no clear process in place as to how donations can made to the Trust" "Council (which Council?? you mean an administrator?) sought to wind up the Trusts which generated local media interest at the time so there will be interest in the call for grant applicants and donations" and so on..... not worded well for my liking.. I would have also thought the item would be on our agenda for this Thursday..?</p> <p>21 September 2023 – Joy is going to review the</p>	Ongoing
					21/09/2023

Item No: 2.1
Title: Update from Financials - 31 October 2023
Department: Corporate Services



14 December 2023 Protection of the Environment Trust (POET)
Committee

Reference: F2018/00732-002 - D15980422

Author: Emma Galea, Chief Financial Officer

Financial report as of 31 October 2023

Attachments

1   Financial Report October 2023 D15982622



Item No: 2.2
Title: Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland Progress Report
Department: Environment and Planning

14 December 2023 Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee

Reference: F2021/01272 - D15937784
Author: Sharyn Styman, Conservation Management Officer. Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager. Environmental Management
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

That the Committee note the report.

Report purpose

To provide a progress report in response to Action #135 Meeting date 21/09/2023: Umina Sandplain - \$82k – Bring a progress report to next POET meeting in December.

Background

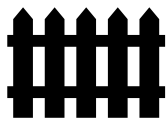
At the Protection of the Environment Trust Committee meeting of 15 June 2022 the Committee moved a motion that the budget for the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland be confirmed for a 2-year period. At the Committee's meeting on 12 December 2022 the Committee agreed to recommend that Council as Trustee approve release of \$82,000 in February 2023 of the 2022/23 financial year for management actions as per the confirmed 2-year budget. At the Council meeting of 24 January 2023, Council resolved to release the funds as recommended by the Committee.

Current Status

Works utilising the \$51,000 received in July 2023 of the 2023/24 financial year are in progress in accordance with the confirmed budget.

Report

The following management actions were completed in the 2022/23 financial year for Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland (UCSW):



POET funded actions

- 338 lineal metres of fencing supplied and installed around 62% of burn zone at Hillview Street Reserve

Council supporting actions

- 207 lineal metres of fencing supplied and installed around 38% of burn zone
- Contract management
- Repair of damaged and vandalised fencing and increased Ranger patrols



POET funded actions

- 187 hours of professional bush regeneration completed pre fire at Hillview Street Reserve

Council supporting works at Hillview Street Reserve

- 147 hours of professional bush regeneration completed pre fire
- 109 hours of burn preparation and rubbish removal by Council staff
- Roadside vegetation management
- Pre fire floristic surveys
- Contract management and staff supervision
- Preparation of Hazard Reduction Certificate and liaison with NSW Fire and Rescue
- Preparation of communication material and liaison with neighbours and bushcare group

Challenges

- 62% of bush regeneration not completed as budget not received until after 24 January 2023 Council meeting, then burn delayed due to unsuitable weather conditions in Autumn 2023



POET funded actions

- Nil due to budget not being received until after 24 January 2023 Council meeting, then contractor shortages.

Council supporting actions

- 339 hours of professional bush regeneration completed at Umina Oval
- Contract management



POET funded actions

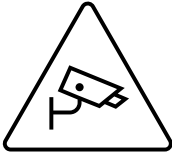
- Ten interim signs on ecological burning supplied and installed around perimeter of burn zone at Hillview Street Reserve

Council supporting actions

- Nine interpretative signs on UCSW supplied and installed at priority sites
- Engagement and coordination with Environmental Volunteering (EV) groups
- Social media post #Tuesdaytails and article in EV news on ecological burning

Challenges

- Permanent signage on ecological burning not supplied as burn delayed



Council supporting actions

Hillview Street Reserve

- Repair of vandalised signage
- Actions to deter arson, tree vandalism and firewood collection in reserve
- Routine drain maintenance and priority weed control

Umina Oval

- Fence and walking track maintenance
- Actions to deter mowing, dumping and camping in UCSW
- Submissions on Peninsula Recreation Precinct upgrades and bookings that may impact UCSW

Works utilising the \$51,000 received in July 2023 of the 2023/24 financial year are in progress in accordance with the confirmed budget.

Unspent funds from 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years could be expended in future years subject to endorsement by the Committee.

Consultation

Community consultation regarding track consolidation and other management actions at the priority sites was previously conducted in March-April 2022.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

- 1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.*

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

There are no material financial implications associated with the information provided in this progress report as the funds allocated to the Umina Coastal Sandplain Woodland are part of the funds held by the Trust for the project.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 4: Responsible

Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships

R-G2: Engage and communicate openly and honestly with the community to build a relationship based on trust, transparency, respect and use community participation and feedback to inform decision making.

Risk Management

There are no material risks in providing this update to the Committee.

Options

There are no options relevant to this update.

Attachments

Nil.



Item No: 2.3
Title: Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land
Department: Environment and Planning

14 December 2023 Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee

Reference: F2018/00732-002 - D15943502
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager. Environmental Management
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

1. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee defer consideration of the Grant Application POET 006 202223 titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land by the Community Environment Network (CEN).
2. The Protection of the Environment Trust seek advice from Council on the proposed expenditure of grant funds requested in application POET 006 202223.
3. The Protection of the Environment Trust review the grant guidelines to provide greater clarity for applicants and to better guide the Committee's assessment of grant applications.

Report purpose

To report on grant application POET 006 202223 submitted by the Community Environment Network requesting \$81,426.90 for the project titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land.

Executive Summary

The Community Environment Network (CEN) has submitted an application to the Protection of the Environment Trust requesting \$81,426.90 towards undertaking the project titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land. The applicant's in-kind contribution is valued at \$78,460. The total project cost is \$159,886.90.

This stated aims of the project are to maintain and improve the integrity of lands identified for Council's Coastal Open Space System (COSS) and the wildlife corridors that complement COSS lands.

2.3 Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (contd)

Background

Grant Application POET006 202223 is an attachment to this report and includes that:

The project aims to maintain and improve the integrity of lands identified for COSS and the wildlife corridors that complement COSS lands. The project will continue to develop and support private landholder Landcare Green Teams in the former Gosford area of the Central Coast Local Government Area. Landcare Green Teams are private landholders working together on each other’s properties to remove weeds and conduct other bush regeneration activities. New groups will be encouraged to join in key areas adjacent to COSS lands.

The program will work with landholders to:

- Maintain and improve ecological integrity of lands identified as COSS and the wildlife corridors that complement COSS lands
- Assist landholders in or near Gosford’s COSS to maintain and improve bushland on their properties.
- Ensure long-term protection of COSS Corridors.

Total cost of project

Source of contribution	Amount
PoET	\$81,426.90
CEN	\$78,460
TOTAL	\$159,886.90

Applicant contribution – in kind

Project Item	Amount
Volunteer Green Team members at working bees 5 teams x 5 members x 3hrs/mth @ \$25/hr x 12 mths	\$22,500
Volunteers at education and training 5 workshops x 2hrs @ \$25/hr x 20 participants	\$5,000
Tool kits provided by CEN @ \$800 x 2	\$1,600
CEN Promotion - website, email newsletters, social media	\$1,500
Project Management @1hr/week	\$2,860
Landholders working alongside Bush Regeneration Team 450hrs total x 2 landholders @ \$25/hr	\$22,500
Landholders working independently between working bees using skills provided by coordinator 3hrs/mth@\$25hr x 25 landholders x 12mths	\$ 22,500
TOTAL	\$78,460

2.3 Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (contd)

Amount requested from the Protection of the Environment Trust

Project Item	Amount
Project Coordinator 2 days/week for 12 months to recruit, train and supervise Landcare Green Team volunteers and organise workshops, communication and other project activities.	\$31,200
Coordinator on costs	\$4,056
Travel	\$1,000
3 Tool kits (\$800 each)	\$2,400
5 Training/ Education Workshops	\$2,500
5 LFW Assessments/ sign ups @\$400	\$2,000
500 Plants @\$3.30ea	\$1,650
Professional Bush Regeneration Days x 20 @\$1100/day (3 person team x 7.5hr) using CEN Bush Regeneration staff	\$22,000
Promotional - banners, signs, t-shirts	\$2,000
Communications activities and materials - Advertising in local newspapers, flyers and brochures	\$2,000
Administration/Insurance - project costs associated with office rent, accounting staff, secretariat services, insurance, phone, computer, internet, office supplies etc.	\$10,620.90
TOTAL	\$81,426

Current Status

The grant application has been made under the Protection of the Environment Trust's grants program.

Report

The budget provided in Grant Application POET006 202223 requests for costs for bush regeneration using the organisation's bush regeneration staff. The Community Environment Network has a bush regeneration arm that tenders for commercial works to be delivered by organisations including Central Coast Council. Approval of grant application, POET 006 202223, as submitted would effectively see the grant funds being allocated directly to bush regeneration arm of the applicant's organisation to deliver a key part of the project.

The POET grant guidelines are silent on requirements for quotes for non-capital items. Clause 8.2, which refers to capital items only states that: Applicants will be requested to provide two quotes for each item valued at \$1,000 or more for capital works and/or equipment. Council's internal procurement process requires for goods and services between \$10,000-\$49,999 that two written quotations are received.

In order to assist applicants and to better guide the assessments of grant applications by the Committee it is recommended that the Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Guidelines

2.3 Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (contd)

be reviewed for alignment with Council's procurement process, and with the current Central Coast Council Community Grants guidelines.

Consultation

The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee provides recommendations to Council for formal consideration at a subsequent Council meeting.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The allocation of funds to grant applicants from the Protection of the Environment Trust does not impact on Council's General Fund.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

Goal E: Environmental resources for the future

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.

Risk Management

There is low risk of the Community Environment Network not being able to deliver the project as described in grant application POET 006 202223.



Options

1. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee defer consideration of the Grant Application POET 006 202223 titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land by the Community Environment Network (CEN). **Recommended.**
2. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend not to fund grant application POET 006 202223 titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land. Not recommended.

2.3 Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (contd)

3. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend funding of grant application POET 006 202223 titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land. Not recommended.

Attachments

- 1  Grant Application POET006-202223-Community Environment Network D15966391
-  - Landcare Green Teams on Private Land



Item No: 2.4
Title: Grant Application POET009 202223 Hanging on by their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the former Gosford LGA
Department: Environment and Planning

14 December 2023 Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee

Reference: F2018/00732-002 - D15943534
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager. Environmental Management
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend that Council release \$22,719 to fund Grant Application POET 009 202223 from the University of Technology Sydney for the project titled Hanging on by Their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the Former Gosford LGA.

Report purpose

To report on grant application POET 009 202223 submitted by the University of Technology Sydney requesting \$22,719 for the project titled Hanging on by Their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the Former Gosford LGA.

Executive Summary

The University of Technology Sydney has submitted an application to the Protection of the Environment Trust requesting \$22,719 towards undertaking the project titled Hanging on by Their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the Former Gosford LGA. The applicant's in-kind contribution is valued at \$30,436. The total project cost is \$53,155.

The project will provide key information on the distribution and habitat types occupied by two threatened species in the former Gosford LGA.

2.4 Grant Application POET009 202223 Hanging on by their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the former Gosford LGA (contd)

Background

Grant Application POET 009 202223 is an attachment to this report and includes:

This project aims to use camera traps to determine the distribution of the threatened long-nosed potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* and spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus* in the former Gosford LGA. Both of these species are threatened with extinction however sporadic records occur in the former Gosford LGA. In the past two years Council staff have detected a Potoroo on camera at Mangrove Creek Dam and on The Ridgeway, while National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) has recorded one on camera at Palm Grove Nature Reserve. Several roadkill records of quolls occur along Woy Woy Road and observations have occurred elsewhere in the area.

To date Central Coast Council staff have completed surveys across 200 sites on the Central Coast, some of which have detected these species. This program will be informed by the previous Council survey and will focus on areas where target species are likely to occur (e.g. Mangrove Creek catchment, Brisbane Water NP). To determine the distribution and habitat types occupied by potoroos and quolls, UTS will deploy remote camera traps at 200 locations throughout the former Gosford LGA. Cameras will run for 14 days, so the project will generate 2,800 camera trap days of data. Image analysis will be done by UTS internship students, under the supervision of Professor Jonathan Webb. The output of the project will be an excel file with all species recorded by cameras at each site. This data file will be shared with NPWS and Council. Professor Webb will deliver a public webinar to inform the wider community.

Total cost of project

Source of contribution	Amount
PoET	\$22,719
UTS	\$30,463
TOTAL	\$55,719

Amount requested from the Protection of the Environment Trust

Project Item	\$Value
Browning cameras (\$195 each x 25 plus \$40 shipping)	4,915
Contractor fees (\$75 p/h x 182 h = \$13,650)	13,650
Rechargeable AA batteries (\$4.60 each x 300) plus \$15 shipping	1,395
SD cards (\$24.59 ea x 100)	2,459
Bait and bait canisters	300
Sub-total	22,719

2.4 Grant Application POET009 202223 Hanging on by their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the former Gosford LGA (contd)

Applicant – in kind contribution

Project Item	\$Value
Image identification (interns \$25 h x 400 h)	10,000
Field assistants (interns \$25 h x 182 h x 2 interns)	12,740
Prof. Webb, ethics/permits, image analysis, production of community flyer, webinar, supervision of students, meetings and report writing (48 hours @ \$160.33 hr)	7,696
Sub-total	30,436

Current Status

The grant application has been made under the Protection of the Environment Trust's grants program.

Report

The budget provided in Grant Application POET 009 202223 includes a cost of \$13,650 for contractors to set up and retrieve wildlife cameras. The body of the application states that the major costs of the project involve deploying and retrieving cameras across 200 sites, which will be done by a contractor with the assistance from two UTS internship students. While the original application did not include a quote for this part of the project, the University of Technology Sydney has subsequently provided a quote from the contractor. Quotes were provided for the cameras, batteries and SD cards required for the project in the original application.

Consultation

The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee provides recommendations to Council for formal consideration at a subsequent Council meeting.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The allocation of funds to grant applicants from the Protection of the Environment Trust does not impact on Council's General Fund.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

2.4 Grant Application POET009 202223 Hanging on by their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the former Gosford LGA (contd)

Theme 3: Green

Goal E: Environmental resources for the future

G-F1: Protect our rich environmental heritage by conserving beaches, waterways, bushland, wildlife corridors and inland areas, and the diversity of local native species.



Risk Management

There is a low risk of the University of Technology Sydney not being able to deliver the project as described in grant application POET 009 202223

Options

1. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend that Council release \$22,719 to fund Grant Application POET 009 202223 from the University of Technology Sydney for the project titled Hanging on by Their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the Former Gosford LGA. **Recommended**
2. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend not to fund grant application POET 006 202223 titled Hanging on by Their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the Former Gosford LGA submitted by the University of Technology Sydney. **Not recommended.**
3. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend funding part of the grant application POET 006 202223 titled Hanging on by Their Teeth: The Distribution of Endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and Spotted-tailed Quoll in the Former Gosford LGA submitted by the University of Technology Sydney. **Not recommended.**

Attachments

- 1  Grant Application POET009-202223-University Technology Sydney, D15966443
 Hanging on by their Teeth - long-nosed potoroo and spotted-tailed quoll.



Item No: 2.5
Title: Grant Application POET010 202223 Bush-stone Curlew and Estuary Birds - Education and Citizen Science

Department: Environment and Planning

14 December 2023 Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee

Reference: F2018/00732-002 - D15943542
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Luke Sulkowski, Unit Manager. Environmental Management
Executive: Alice Howe, Director Environment and Planning

Recommendation

The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommends that Council release \$31,177 from the Protection of the Environment Trust Fund for grant application POET 010 202223 from the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc. for the project titled Bush Stone-curlew and Estuary Birds – Education and Citizen Science.

Report purpose

To report on grant application POET 010 202223 submitted by the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc. requesting funding \$31,927 for the project titled Bush Stone-curlew and Estuary Birds – Education and Citizen Science.

Executive Summary

The Central Coast Marine Studies Centre has submitted an application to the Protection of the Environment Trust requesting \$31,927 towards undertaking the project titled Bush Stone-curlew and Estuary Birds – Education and Citizen Science. The applicant's in-kind contribution is valued at \$32,510. With income from workshop registration fees of \$750, the total project cost is \$65,187.

There is no indication in the application what the collected registration fees will be used for. It is therefore proposed that \$750 be deducted from the grant funds requested, and that \$31,177 be paid from the Trust to the grant applicant to deliver the project.

The project will aim to increase awareness and appreciation of estuary birdlife, in particular the endangered Bush Stone-curlew.

**2.5 Grant Application POET010 202223 Bush-stone Curlew and Estuary Birds
- Education and Citizen Science (contd)**

Background

Grant Application POET 010 202223 is an attachment to this report and includes:

The project will aim to increase awareness and appreciation of estuary birdlife, in particular the endangered bush stone-curlew (BSC). There continues to be a small number of pairs of BSC in the Davistown, Kincumber and Umina areas; however, there is a need for increased awareness, education and reporting of sightings. As part of the project, the applicant intends to expand its education and citizen science activities to a broader theme of estuary birds with a focus on the Brisbane Water Estuary.

The project will include:

- Education visits and materials for local schools (estimated 10 school groups) in the catchment areas where bush stone-curlew are known to occur
- Community workshops/ events - including bird identification and bird watching activities, community monitoring activities
- Promotion of registration of sightings through appropriate online platforms eg. Atlas of Living Australia
- A summary report of citizen science activities as a result of the project.

Total cost of project

Source of contribution	Amount
POET	31,927
CCMDC	33,260
TOTAL	65,187

Amount requested from the Protection of the Environment Trust

Project Item	\$Value
Project Officer - 8 hr / week x 52 weeks @ \$39/hr + on-costs	18,927
Workshops - 10 community workshops / events @ \$200 each (catering / venue)	2,000
School visits - 10 @ \$200 each - materials	2,000
Materials & monitoring	2,000
Printing / promotion	2,000
Presenters / expert expenses	1,000
Administration / overheads (phone, computers, IT support)	4,000
Sub-total	31,927

2.5 Grant Application POET010 202223 Bush-stone Curlew and Estuary Birds - Education and Citizen Science (contd)

Applicant – in kind contribution

Project Item	\$Value
Workshop participants - estimate 10 community workshops x 15 people x 3 hrs	11,250
10 school visits x 30 students x 1 hour visit	9,300
Staff / office overheads	4,560
Administration / project management	3,900
Experts - e.g. NPWS, Birding Central Coast	1,500
Printing / promotion	2,000
Sub-total	32,510

Applicant contribution - cash

Project Item	\$Value
Workshop - registrations - estimate 5 workshops x 15 people @ \$10/person	750
Sub-total	750

Current Status

The grant application has been made under the Protection of the Environment Trust’s grants program.

Report

The project proposes to deliver workshops and education about estuary birds including bush stone-curlews. Presumably in order to ensure that participants who register to participate in the workshops actually attend, a charge of \$10 per person to attend the workshops has been identified as an applicant’s contribution. The grant application does not identify how those collected funds, estimated to be \$750, are to be used in the delivery of the project.

It is also unclear why the “applicant contribution – cash” component only budgets for 5 workshops of 15 people, where elsewhere in the application costings are estimated based on 10 workshops. The requested contribution from the POET however is less than 50% of the total project budget even if this \$750 amount was deducted from the applicant’s total project contributions.

Clarification via email has been requested from the applicant, however no response has been received to date.

It is proposed that the \$750 identified as registration fees be deducted from the \$31,927 requested from the Trust, and that the amount recommended to be paid to applicant of grant application POET 010 202223 be \$31,177.

2.5 Grant Application POET010 202223 Bush-stone Curlew and Estuary Birds - Education and Citizen Science (contd)

Consultation

The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee provides recommendations to Council for formal consideration at a subsequent Council meeting.

Financial Considerations

At its meeting held 19 October 2020, Council resolved the following:

1108/20 That any motions put before Council for the remainder of this term of Council that have financial implications require the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report on how those additional costs will be met.

The following statement is provided in response to this resolution of Council.

The allocation of funds to grant applicants from the Protection of the Environment Trust does not impact on Council's General Fund.

Link to Community Strategic Plan

Theme 3: Green

Goal E: Environmental resources for the future

G-E1: Educate the community on the value and importance of natural areas and biodiversity, and encourage community involvement in caring for our natural environment.

Risk Management

There is a low risk of the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc no being able to deliver the project as described in grant application POET 010 202223.

Options


1. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend to Council to release \$31,177 from the Protection of the Environment Trust Fund for grant application POET 010 202223 from the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc. for the project titled Bush Stone-curlew and Estuary Birds – Education and Citizen Science.
Recommended.
2. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend to Council to release \$31,927 from the Protection of the Environment Trust Fund for grant application POET 010 202223 from the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc. for the project titled

2.5 Grant Application POET010 202223 Bush-stone Curlew and Estuary Birds - Education and Citizen Science (contd)

Bush Stone-curlew and Estuary Birds – Education and Citizen Science. **Not Recommended.**

3. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommend to Council not to release funds from the Protection of the Environment Trust Fund for grant application POET 010 202223 from the Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc. for the project titled Bush Stone-curlew and Estuary Birds – Education and Citizen Science. **Not Recommended.**

Attachments

- 1  Grant Application POET010-202223-Central Coast Marine Discovery Centre Inc - Bush stone-curlew and estuary birds - education and citizen science. D15966601

2.6 GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Committee meeting dates for 2024**

March: 28 March 2024 – 2pm -4pm – online via *Microsoft Teams*

June: 27 June 2024 – 2pm – 4pm – online via *Microsoft Teams*

October* 31 October 2024 – 2pm – 4pm – online via *Microsoft Teams*

December* 12 December 2024 – 2pm – 4pm – online via *Microsoft Teams*

* Meeting dates are subject to change. The meeting ordinarily held in September is proposed to be moved to October, date to be confirmed, as the Local Government Elections will occur on 14 September 2024. Further information regarding meetings in the second half of the year will be provided once available.

Attachments

Nil