



PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT TRUST (POET) COMMITTEE

27 June 2024



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 CONNECTIONS (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 27 June 2024 at 2:00pm,
for the transaction of the business listed below:**

Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, Receipt of Apologies

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play.

We pay our respects to Darkinjung Country, and Elders past and present.

We recognise the continued connection to these lands and waterways and extend this acknowledgement to the homelands and stories of those who also call this place home.

We recognise our future leaders and the shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

S REPORTS

S.1 Grant Application - Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (POET006 202223)..... 4

Gary Chestnut
Chairperson



Item No: S.1
Title: Grant Application - Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (POET006 202223)
Department: Environment and Planning

27 June 2024 Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) Committee

Reference: F2018/00732-002 - D16265689
Author: Larry Melican, Section Manager Natural Assets and Biodiversity
Manager: Peter Sheath, Unit Manager, Environmental Management
Executive: Edward Hock, Unit Manager Enterprise Risk Project

Recommendation

- 1. That the Committee approve the independent assessment of the Protection of the Environment Trust (POET) grant application Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (POET006 202223).**
- 2. That the Committee request that following a review of Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Guidelines that a report on the recommended changes be prepared for the consideration.**

Report purpose

To provide a status report on the recommendation made by the Protection of the Environment Trust on 14 December 2023 in relation to grant application POET006 202223 titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land.

To recommend, as per advice from Council's Governance Team, that the grant application POET006 202223 be assessed by an experienced grant assessor who is not involved with the Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Program.

To recommend that the Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Guidelines be reviewed by Council staff in consultation with Council's Governance Team, and that a report on the proposed changes to the guidelines that provide greater clarity to both grant applicants and grant assessors be considered by the Trust Committee.

Executive Summary

At its meeting on 14 December 2023, the Protection of the Environment Trust Committee considered three grant applications including POET006 202223 from the Community Environment Network titled Landcare Green Teams on Private Land.

Two of the three community representatives on the Trust Committee declared an interest in the item and withdrew themselves from the meeting when grant application POET006

S.1 Grant Application - Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (POET006 202223) (cont'd)

202223 was discussed. The Trust Committee recommended to defer consideration of the grant application and to seek advice from Council on the proposed expenditure of grant funds requested in application POET006 202223.

Advice received from Council's Government Team included that 'In fairness to all involved in the process it is strongly recommended that the committee engage an independent party to assess this grant application.'

This report recommends that grant application be assessed by an experienced grant assessor who is not involved with the Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Program.

A process for reviewing the grant guidelines, as recommended on 14 December 2023, is provided for consideration of the Trust Committee.

Background

At its meeting of 14 December 2023 in relation to agenda item 2.3 titled Grant Application POET 006 202223 Landcare Green Teams on Private Land, the Protection of the Environment Trust Committee recommended to Council that:

1. The Protection of the Environment Trust Committee deferred 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.

Council resolved on 27 February 2024 in relation to the Protection of the Environment Trust's Agenda Item 2.3 of 14 December 2023

That Council:

39/24 Note that the Protection of the Environment Trust Committee considered Grant Application POET 006 202223 titled "Landcare Green Teams on Private Land" submitted by the Community Environment Network (CEN) and deferred making a recommendation pending further advice being sought from the applicant.

S.1 Grant Application - Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (POET006 202223) (cont'd)

40/24 Note that the Protection of the Environment Trust grant guidelines are to be reviewed in consultation with the Committee to provide greater clarity for grant applicants and to better guide the Committee's assessment of grant applications.

Current Status

Advice on grant application POET006 202223 has been received from Council's Governance Team which includes that 'In fairness to all involved in the process it is strongly recommended that the committee engage an independent party to assess this grant application.'

A letter was sent to the applicant of application POET 006 202223 titled "Landcare Green Teams on Private Land" on 16 May 2024 seeking additional information about the application. A response letter was received from the Community Environment Network on 21 June 2024.

The Trust Committee recommended on 14 December 2023 to review the grant guidelines to provide greater clarity for applicants and to better guide the Committee's assessment of grant applications. This report recommends a process for undertaking that review.

Report

At its meeting on 14 December 2023 the Trust Committee considered three grant applications. Two of the three community representatives declared an interest in application POET006 20223 and removed themselves from the meeting while this application was considered.

The Trust Committee recommended to defer consideration of grant application POET006 20223, to request further information from the applicant, and to seek advice from Council on the proposed expenditure of grant funds requested in application.

Advice on grant application POET006 202223 has been received from Council's Governance Team which includes that 'In fairness to all involved in the process it is strongly recommended that the committee engage an independent party to assess this grant application.'

A response was received to the questions asked of the applicant organisation, the Community Environment Network, on 21 June 2024.

It is recommended that as per advice from Council's Governance Team, that grant application POET006 202223 be assessed by an experienced grant assessor who is not involved with the Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Program. This may be a Council officer or someone external to Council.

S.1 Grant Application - Landcare Green Teams on Private Land (POET006 202223) (cont'd)

It is also recommended that following a review of Protection of the Environment Trust Grant Guidelines by Council staff in consultation with Council's Government Team that a report with recommendations for changes to the guidelines that provide greater clarity to both grant applicants and grant assessors be considered by the Trust Committee.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement occurs via the Protection of the Environment Trust Committee.

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 recommendations of this report do 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

Nil Impact

Options

The Trust Committee vote to adopt the recommendations of this report.

Recommended option.

The Trust Committee vote to not adopt the recommendations of this report.
Not recommended.

Attachments

Nil.