

13 November 2020

Upper Deua Landcare Group
Araluen NSW 2621

Dear Penny,

Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund - PHASE TWO STREAM 2

This letter provides South East Local Land Services (LLS) support for the Upper Deua Landcare Group's (UDLG) project and grant application under the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund.

LLS has an established strong productive working relationship with the Araluen community and the UDLG, demonstrated recently through our support in delivering erosion control workshops to the community in the months following last summers horrendous bushfires and more recent flooding events.

Recent drought, bushfires and floods have had significant environmental, economic and environmental impacts on the Araluen community. However, despite these challenges the community has demonstrated its resilience and have actively got on with the job of recovery with the help of several agencies, including their local council, Landcare, LLS and each other.

The bushfires significantly impacted vegetation and groundcovers in the steep, upper parts of the catchment, the subsequent high rates of runoff during rain and storm events has significantly eroded the Araluen creek and its tributaries causing vast amounts of nutrients, sediments and pollutants to enter the waterway, which if left untreated poses further environmental, water quality and economic risks for the community and downstream users.

LLS has inspected many landholder properties relating to damaging erosion since the floods and many sites remain vulnerable. This erosion is impacting agricultural infrastructure and production and degrading natural aquatic habitats which were already struggling to recover following the fires.

Several years ago the UDLG engaged in important rehabilitation works in a section of Araluen Creek based on plans prepared in partnership with Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Network and LLS. Recent inspections of this work have proven them to be very successful

and secured sections of the creek bed against erosion. There's now a strong need to extend such works to other areas of the creek and its tributaries which are actively eroding. Funding from the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (Phase 2 Stream 2) will make this project possible and add significant value to the waterways, downstream water users, wildlife habitat and the landholders who manage them by allowing the repair of active erosion in the tributaries and parts of Araluen Creek not previously treated. This will reduce sedimentation and pollution to the waterway and protect aquatic ecosystems. These factors all help to build resilience in natural and agricultural environments and help landholders regain confidence and strength in their landscapes ability to survive the next disaster.

The Braidwood LLS office will partner with the UDLG to provide the role of technical advice and project management support, with additional assistance from the Soil Conservation Service in design and construction.

It will be our pleasure to assist the UDLG and the broader Araluen community in this project which tackles complex environmental degradation processes, often difficult to analyse and expensive to repair.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the involvement of LLS in this project proposal.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Andy Taylor

Senior NRM Advisor

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