



Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.

ABN 78 721 547 112

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984) including its sub-committee,
the Araluen Community Water Users Association

ARALUEN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

UDCLG's application to the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund was successful and the group has received \$290 000 to implement sediment control strategies in the Araluen Creek below the Neringla Bridge.

Background

The lengthy drought, extreme bushfires and seven major flooding events in 16 months have created such high levels of damage that only major efforts can be employed to stabilise the Araluen Creek and its tributaries.

Our partners; Local Land Services, Soil Conservation Service and Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council have assessed the damage and identified at least 20 sites requiring immediate attention in order to prevent further catastrophic outcomes for the Araluen Valley and those downstream who depend on good water quality. Improvements in stream stability will improve water quality, biodiversity and agricultural resilience.

Identified sites include stream bed erosion and bank collapse, sediment movement, stream deviations, weed infestation and instability created by the burnt landscape. Continuous and extreme weather events mean that remedial action is of a matter of urgency otherwise future weather extremities will continue to adversely impact the water catchment, its tributaries and the riparian zones of the Araluen Creek and Upper Deua catchment.

Brief Project Overview

Both partnerships have been longstanding and UDCLG has worked with these organisations for 15 years to stabilise the catchment area surrounding the Araluen creek and the upper Deua River. This area was subject to extensive mining thus the fragility of the creek beds and water courses mean they are constantly exposed to damage, changing courses and erosion which in turn pose challenges to the local agricultural enterprises.

The valley depends upon good quality water for its livelihood. The partnerships mean we are able to work together and plan for remedial work and include and support the agricultural landowners. We have previously contracted LLS and USLC for a 10 year plan and a plan for the Araluen Creek Bridge to Bridge remedial sills and erosion control works. These have been successfully completed and we are now contracting for weed management in that stretch of the Creek.

This proposal became immediately necessary post the drought, bushfires and flood as the exposed hills were subject to a major rain event and flooding and we began to plan what would be needed below our Bridge to Bridge project area as the damage there was considerable. Our previously worked areas stood up well.

The landowners involved have suffered much during this period and the water course and erosion damage is of such significance that it immediately triggered LLS to begin prioritising the sites for attention. There are some 20 sites that are critical to stabilising the waterway and in collaboration with USLC, local landowners and LLS,



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UDCLG has examined the outcome of the assessment and agreed to seek significant funds which have now been granted.

Scope of Work

A contractor is required to conduct a Review of Environmental Factors prior to the selected sites in-stream remediation being carried out.

A Review of Environment Factors (REF) is required for these proposed in-stream works to enable Local Land Services (LLS) in conjunction with Soil Conservation (exempt entities) to assess, prioritise and carry out erosion control structures in the Araluen Creek and any major tributaries.

The project has planned for some twenty sites of varying degrees of complexity and with Landowners will determine the highest need sites for remediation. Each site once identified will require a REF which will then enable prioritization and work to commence. It is envisaged that the assessment of the sites will begin from 16th August 2021 with LLS scheduling appointments with landowners over the spring, construction to commence in summer.

Any preliminary site preparation, weed control/management required prior to construction should be identified early, the project has re-vegetation activity planned for Autumn 2022 and has budgeted for suitable plants and guards to be available for Landowners. The re-vegetation activity will be Landowners responsibility supported by UDCLG volunteers.

A liaison officer from the UDCLG (project managers) Cath Harrison will support Landowners through the process including the assessment, construction and agreement stages. The REF contractor will liaise with LLS and Soil Conservation and will be supported by UDCLG in any way necessary to ensure the identified sites/map sites etc are available in a timely manner.

Deliverables

1. Submitted REF report weighed against initial assessments and proposals.
2. *Report to:*
 - Identify all sensitive areas;
 - Determine potential impacts;
 - Describe any project specific control measures;
 - Rate the likelihood of the impact;
 - Rate the extent of the impacts;
 - Rate the sensitivity of the environment to the managed impacts;
 - Quantify the environmental risks.

Timeline



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An estimate of the time required should be included in the tender and there is acknowledgment from UDCLG that weather, availability of landowners, liaison activities will also impact upon timelines.

Response to Include

1. Relevant experience and knowledge (summary)
2. Approximate start date and finish
3. Identification of any issues requiring consideration by UDCLG

Please return response to:

Penny Hayman (Secretary UDCLG)

phhayman@pcug.org.au