

Attachment C - Communities Environment Program

End of project report

Project number	CEP80058
Grantee name	Molonglo Conservation Group
Project title	Seed Collection and Revegetation Workshops

The project number, grantee name and project title can be found in the letter of grant agreement.

The amount of detail you provide in this report should be commensurate with the size, complexity and grant amount of your project.

Submit your completed report to CEP2019contracts@industry.gov.au.

1. Project achievements

a. Please confirm:

YES

NO*

All project activities have been completed in line with your grant agreement	X	
You spent the entire grant amount and any financial contribution and cash co-contribution to undertake the approved project	X	
You spent the majority of the grant amount on on-ground eligible activities	X	

*Contact us at CEP2019contracts@industry.gov.au if you cannot answer YES to all of the above questions and/or your project is not complete.

2. Project outcomes

a. Explain how your project:

- delivered positive environmental and social outcomes
- provided communities with the resources, skills and knowledge to care for the environment.

If applicable, outline any lessons learned in delivering your project that have or will lead to improvements in monitoring, managing or conserving your local natural environment.

On a cool and overcast morning in late November over 40 people gathered for a cup of coffee at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. They were welcomed to country by Elder Wally Bell from the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation who spiritually connected us to the land on which we were standing. We were then provided with a welcome to the day by Karen Williams (president of the Molonglo Conservation Group) who set the scene, and reminded us why we are so committed to looking after our environment. Lori Gould (Australian River Restoration Centre) and Miriam Fokker (Jerrabomberra Wetlands Ranger) then took us on a walk around the wetlands to show how on-ground activities in the Jerrabomberra Creek flow through to the wetlands, another important link in the chain of catchment and water quality management.

Following our walk at the wetlands we moved to the Narrabundah wetlands where we were treated to a practical hands-on seed collection workshop by Stephen Bruce from ACT Parks and Conservation. Stephen has a wealth of experience, having managed Greening Australia's seed collection area for many years. His presentation covered species, collection techniques, legislation and licencing, labelling and the use of seed (revegetation and direct seeding). There was a lot of interest in Stephen's presentation which led to a many questions, with workshop participants keen to know how they can

protect, conserve and use seed on their property to further revegetation efforts

After the seed workshop we moved upstream to Jerrabomberra Creek for a traditional tucker lunch provided by the Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. Stephen joined us so the questions could continue as we ate kangaroo stew with wattle seed damper. Refueled, we then moved into a discussion facilitated by Anthony Hart (ACTPCS) about revegetation. Anthony talked about why we need to revegetate within the context of catchment management and water quality. The use of plants to control erosion was practically demonstrated when the group was put to work planting 500 aquatic sedges and grasses to compete with the pasture species that dominate the site. Over 40 community members participated in the event with landholders, Landcare and Parkcare groups represented. We also had the opportunity to launch the recently completed Jerrabomberra Creek Catchment Plan which provides an action-oriented approach to bringing together current and planned work being undertaken by community groups and the ACT and NSW Governments. There was much discussion during the day and feedback after the event was very positive, with a lot of follow up discussions from landholders and community volunteers seeking further advice and support for their projects.

In spite of all the challenges of Covid lockdowns the workshop met it's objectives of bringing people together to discuss key catchment management issues. Molonglo Conservation Group partners delivering the workshop included the Australian River Restoration Centre, Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, ACT NRM, supported by the Dharuwu Ngunawal Committee.

These workshops provided community group members with the practical knowledge and skills to undertake seed collection and revegetation around the Canberra region as part of their own projects. Fact sheets about seed collection and revegetation specific to the Molonglo Catchment were also produced and these, as well as links to a broad range of related information was sent out after the event with an invitation for people to remain connected.

b. Complete the following table on community participation.

	Question	Number
1.	How many people participated in your project (excluding employees)?	44
2.	What was the total area (ha) over which your project on-ground activities were undertaken?	20
3.	How many participants had no previous involvement in undertaking activities that monitor, manage or conserve the environment or in training to obtain these skills?	10
4.	Has your organisation completed similar activities prior to participating in the Communities Environment Program? If yes, (a) how many activities/events were held in the 12 months before this project? (b) on average, how many people participated in each activity/event?	Yes
		2
		15

c. Complete the following table on activities. Choose the activities that best describe those completed in your project. Provide a measurement for all activities using the metrics provided.

Activity	Unit	Unit of measure
Citizen science activities (e.g. monitoring flora, fauna, water quality, marine debris)		number of participants collecting and contributing information about their local environment

Activity	Unit	Unit of measure
Education activities and raising community awareness / participation (e.g. field days, planting days, workshops)	5	number of community participation and engagement events (2 workshops, 2 fact sheets, 1 webpage, social share on Facebook with 612 engagements and a reach of 12728)
	7	number of community groups participating in project activities
	30	number of people who learned a new skill to monitor, manage or conserve the environment
Access management infrastructure (e.g. boardwalk)		total area protected by access control installations (ha)
Disease management (e.g. Phytophthera)		total area managed (ha)
Erosion management		total area of erosion treated (ha)
Fencing (e.g. to protect revegetation/sensitive sites)		total length of fence erected (km)
		total area protected by fencing (ha)
Pest management (e.g. rabbit, feral pig/cat control)		total area of pest management (ha)
		total number of individual animals or colonies killed or removed
Revegetation	1	total area of revegetation (ha)
		total kilograms of seed sown (kg)
	500	total number of new plants planted
Weed control		total area controlled (ha)
Waste reduction – prevent/remove (e.g. clean up days, litter collection traps) To avoid double counting, report either weight <u>or</u> volume for any given item.		total area over which waste was removed from the environment (ha)
		total kilograms of waste prevented from entering, or removed from, the environment (kg)
		total volume of waste prevented from entering, or removed from, the environment (m ³)
Waste reduction – recover/recycle (e.g. recycled waste drop off / clean up day / litter collection trap materials) To avoid double counting, report either weight <u>or</u> volume for any given item.		total kilograms of waste recovered for re-use or recycled (kg)
		total cubic metre volume of waste recovered for re-use or recycled (m ³)

3. Project Benefits

Where relevant to your completed project, please respond to the questions below.

- a. What impact has your project had on the extent, condition, connectivity and/or level of protection of natural habitats and / or on the health of native species? Include the following:
- issue addressed
 - name or type of native habitat / name(s) of species addressed
 - what changed and by how much? Where relevant, include details of output amounts that help explain the change.

The planting of 500 native grasses and sedges in key areas along Jerrabomberra Creek improved environmental condition, stabilised soil and improved biodiversity (by providing competition for pasture species). The skills gained by community will enhance many hectares of new works in the Jerrabomberra Creek catchment and around Canberra.

- b. How have management practices / stewardship of the local environment and waste resources improved as a result of your project? Include reference to any anticipated long term improvements / environmental benefits.

Participants attending the workshop included township residents living along the Molonglo River, and landholders of properties upstream from the project site. Some of these residents and landholders have been conducting conservation works over many years in the Jerrabomberra Creek catchment and Molonglo River catchments. The Jerrabomberra Creek and the Molonglo River have long-term weed control, revegetation and erosion issues that have been addressed in some areas, however, ongoing management is needed as intermittent drought and flood conditions lead to recurring turbidity problems affecting water quality. Workshop participants were able to learn simple techniques to apply to their individual situations. Their efforts will, in turn, have a flow on effect to water quality entering the natural filtration systems downstream in the new Narrabundah Wetlands, the established Jerrabomberra Wetlands and, ultimately, Lake Burely Griffin and the Molonglo River.

- c. How has your project contributed to improving participants' skills in monitoring, managing or conserving your local natural environment and/or native species? Include the following:
- type of skill(s) learned (e.g. monitoring a threatened species breeding success)
 - how will this skill contribute to future management, monitoring and/or conservation?

Participants learned to collect seed and undertake revegetation activities in practical ways, as well as learning about how these activities relate to catchment management and river rehabilitation for water quality improvements. They also experienced a connection to Country with the help of our Ngunnawal Elders who welcomed us to Country and then provided a traditional lunch. The workshop had a very positive and optimistic feel, which was welcome after the trials and tribulations of Covid-19. It was fantastic to see our community coming together and sharing their passion in caring for our environment. Fact sheets have been produced on revegetation and seed collection so anyone wanting to do this work in the Jerrabomberra and Molonglo Catchments has a quick reference guide to refer to.

4. Attachments

Submit two before and two after photographs showing each project site before and after completion of project activities as evidence of your completed project as specified in the grant agreement. Include two good quality photographs that are representative of the project sites and activities.

BEFORE

Jerrabomberra Wetlands



Siwan Lovett)

Welcome to Country Ngunnawal Elder Wally Bell (photo



Jerrabomberra Wetlands speakers Lori Gould (Australian River Restoration Centre) and Miriam Fokker (Jerrabomberra Wetlands Ranger) (Photos Karen Williams)

Narrabundah Wetlands



Keen participants (Photo Siwan Lovett)



(Photo Siwan Lovett)



(Photo Karen Williams)



(Photo Karen Williams)



Presenter Ranger Stephen Bruce (Photo Karen Williams)



Lori Gould at Narrabundah Wetlands (Photo Karen Williams)

AFTER

Jerrabomberra Creek



Lunch break and walking to the Jerrabomberra Creek work site (Photos Karen Williams)



ACT PCS Ranger Maree Gilbert launching Jerrabomberra Creek Catchment Plan. At the worksite with Lori Gould (ARRC) and Ranger Anthony Hart (ACTPCS) (Photos Karen Williams)

Planting 500 aquatic sedges and grasses to compete with the pasture species that dominate the site



Ranger Maree Gilbert demonstrating removal of seedlings from hiku pots (Photo Karen Williams)



Plantings in place (Photos Karen Williams)

5. Certification

I, Karen Williams am a person duly authorised by the grantee to certify that:

- the information in this report is accurate, complete and not misleading and that I understand that giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth).
- the grant was spent on the approved project in accordance with the grant agreement.
- I am aware of the grantee's obligations under their agreement, including the need to keep the Commonwealth informed of any circumstances that may impact on the objectives, completion and/or outcomes of the agreed project.
- I am aware that the grant agreement empowers the Commonwealth to terminate the grant agreement and to request repayment of funds paid to the grantee where the grantee is in breach of the agreement.



Signature:

Date ...14../..12.../ 2021.....