



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Grants Administrator use only

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Accepted Yes No

Grant Officer _____

2019-2020 ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROJECT EVALUATION AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Project Title: Piney Creek Restoration and Woodland Connection

Grant Recipient: Molonglo Conservation Group

Project Officer: **Karen Williams** **Phone No.** 0427 803 896

Mailing Address: **Molonglo Conservation Group**
12 River Street, Oaks Estate, ACT 2620

Email Address: **President@molonglo.org.au**

Project reporting against the Project Plan, outcomes and Approved Budget is a requirement of Item 3 Schedule 1 of the Deed of Grant.

All information in this report is public information, except for all personal and financial information which will remain confidential. If any other information is commercial-in-confidence, please attach as a separate page to this report and mark it accordingly.

In filling out this form please attach any supporting documentation, or additional pages, if more space is required. Please ensure all attachments are clearly marked with the question number they refer to.



Project Report

1. Please summarise all project activities in relation to the Project Plan, describing how they were carried out. Attached before and after photographic evidence to support your summary for all on-ground works.

Assessment of site for Aprasia habitat was undertaken prior to work starting.

Piney Creek Exclusion Fencing

950 metres of stock exclusion fencing was constructed in second half of 2019 along Piney Creek. A contractor erected 8 wire fences, 3 gates and 1 Flood gate.

Exclusion fencing of large paddock tree

Exclusion fencing was constructed in a rectangular shape, starting around the dripline of the tree with the longer section of the rectangle running South to South-East in the direction of the prevailing wind. A Two-person petrol auger was used to dig holes for galvanized steel posts with connection brackets. Star Pickets and manually strained wire used for the fencing of paddock tree surrounds. (An after photo was not taken but the work was sighted by me and the team of rangers that accompanied me on the site visit in June 2023).

Revegetation

Planting commenced in May and June 2020 after completion of fencing. Holes were drilled by petrol auger and mattocks used to create well. Water crystals were placed in holes prior to planting 400 pre-soaked tube stock (list attached). Corflute guards with stake facing prevailing wind were placed around tubestock. Minimum 5L of water was used to water plantings. In-stream revegetation was carried out in active erosion zones and targeted pools of water. Flowering species were clustered in small groups.

Erosion Control

PCS planned to hand-build a rock structure in a suitable area of Piney creek. They planned to build a convex rock structure against the flow of water. The rocks were dumped at the determined location, but the PCS rangers accompanying me on my inspection in June 2023 say that it rained the day they intended to build the structure and it wasn't completed. I noted that the rocks are still in the creek bed but have not been formed into any sort of planned structure.

Revegetation Maintenance

On-ground project-works and follow-up maintenance were completed in October 2020. Most tree guards were collected during an inspection of the new fence in October 2020, with weeding around planting stock and re-staking of some plants done, where necessary.

Wet conditions since then till June 2023 have clearly assisted maintenance of plantings and natural regeneration since. However, my site visit accompanying PCS rangers in June 2023, prior to writing this report, revealed that the fenced stock exclusion areas along Piney Creek have not been properly managed or maintained by the lessee or Parks and Conservation.

Gates were being left open and, in one instance, missing its fastening. In addition, the flood gate and posts has been damaged during more recent deluges and have not been repaired. Although, a dead wild pig left lying on the creek bank provided evidence that the site had been included in the recent aerial pest animal culling conducted by PCS.

Monitoring

Monitoring of planting was conducted in October 2020 but filing of results was not completed due to the disruption to business activity when Molonglo Consulting being placed into voluntary receivership. The information has subsequently been lost.

Despite apparent poor management and maintenance of stock exclusion areas along Piney Creek since 2020 I estimate that approximately 30 to 50% of the 400 plants survive in June 2023, with some strong regeneration of vegetation in wetter areas in and along the creek.

Before photos



A Yellow-Box (*E. melliodora*) located near Piney Creek and target for tree paddock exclusion fencing

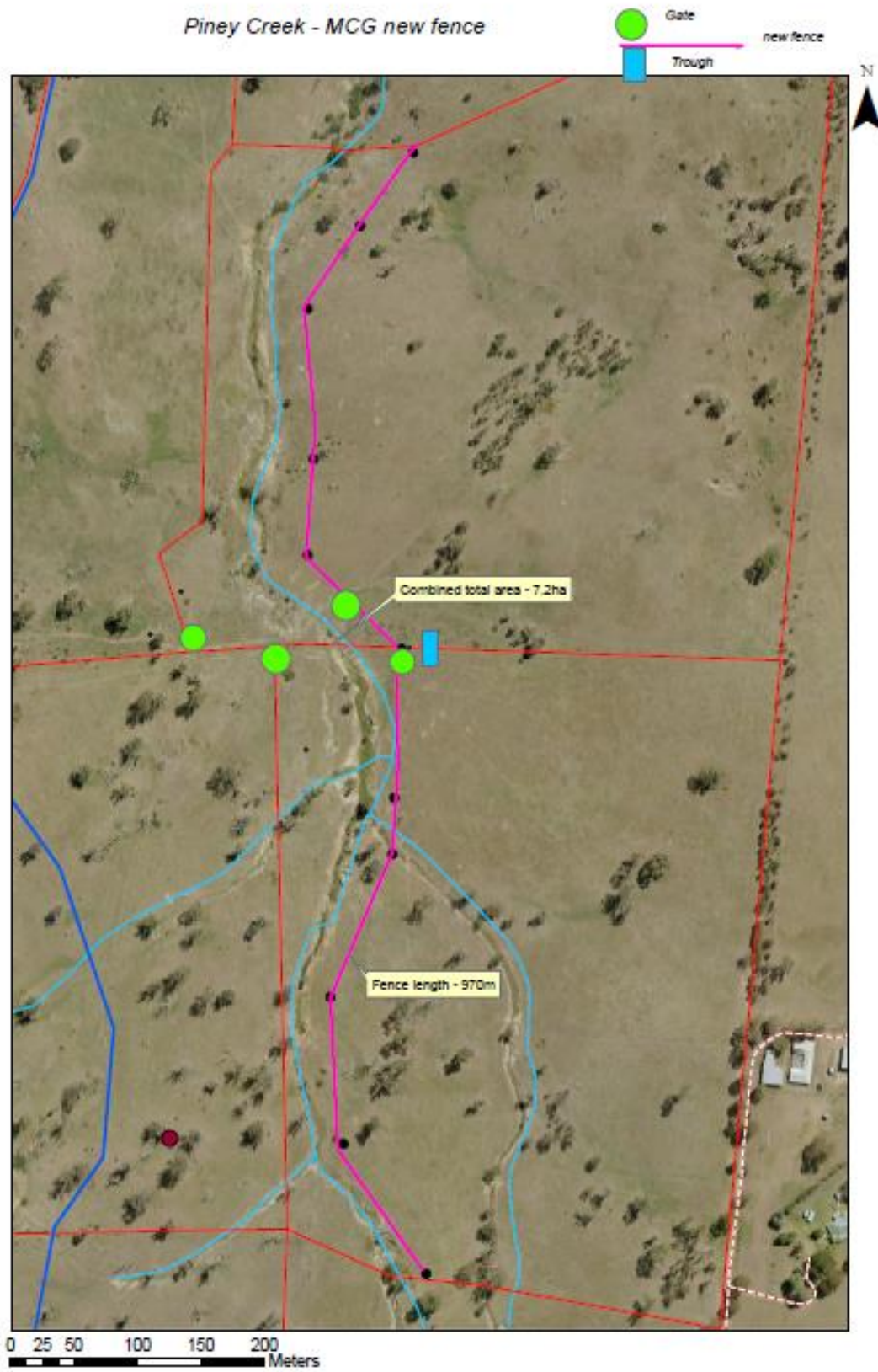


Gully erosion along Piney Creek (South).

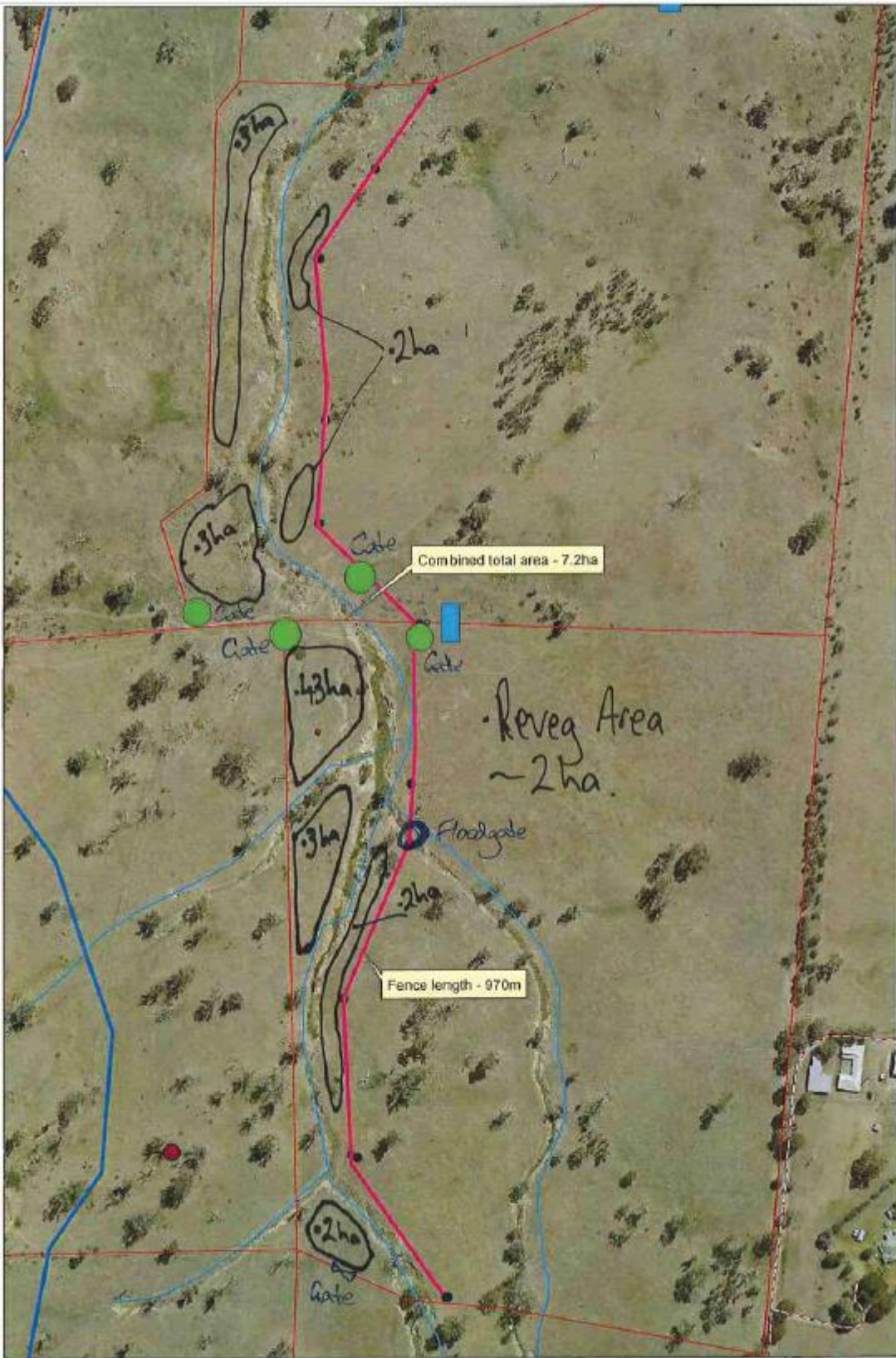


Gully erosion along Piney Creek (North).

Piney Creek - MCG new fence



Revegetation Areas



After photos



Example of Instream grasses and eucalypt plantings (northern erosion gully viewed 2023)



Fence and Gate at southern end of the site



one of the planting areas



Rocks waiting to be used for construction of convex structure by PCS



damaged flood gate post



One of the open gates, the water trough (marked in blue on the map, above) can also be seen through the gate opening.

I've attached other photos showing fencing and planting results in the overall area taken in June 2023.

2. Actual Start Date: August 2019

Actual Completion Date: October 2020

3. Has this project achieved the activities and milestones by the key dates stipulated in the Project Plan?

Yes

No

If no, in what ways did it vary and why, indicating if a project variation was approved by the Grants Administrator?

Project Evaluation

4. Outline the main achievements in relation to the objectives for the project.

The construction of approximately 950 metres of stock fencing along the creek line provided an area of 11.7 hectares to exclude stock grazing along a corridor either side of Piney Creek.

400 native tube stock were planted to increase landscape connectivity of the local Yellow-Box Red-Gum Grassy Woodland community, enhance suitable habitat for native species and mitigate active creek erosion with the inclusion of in-stream vegetation. (Species list attached)

Two paddock tree enclosures were erected to improve the connectivity of two existing remnant mature hollow bearing Eucalypts to the revegetation site and the Molonglo River Corridor beyond.

5. Did the project achieve the desired outcomes? Yes No

Help enhance an endangered ecological community and mitigate the negative impacts of historical farming practices in an achievable manner.

The project site is located between existing areas of Yellow-Box Red-Gum Grassy Woodlands habitat, identified Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*) habitat and the Molonglo River Corridor. The addition of minor fencing and revegetation works along Piney Creek has provided landscape scale improvement by connecting the remnant grassy woodland ecological community with the revegetation site. In addition, two isolated remnant paddock trees were enclosed to prevent stock from further impacting the root structure of the trees and to improve ground and middle storey habitat regeneration beneath the tree canopies. In 2023, survival of plantings mixed with naturally regenerating native species has increased the potential for improved connectivity across historically and currently grazed open paddocks to adjacent remnant grassy Woodland habitat. (photos attached)

Protect habitat for a locally vulnerable species and will also increase habitat and food sources for native species in the future.

Aprasia are known to live happily with 15 different species of ants and one species of termite. The most important thing has been to leave the Aprasia alone. Secondly, excluding stock has improved soil quality and subsequently, the natural regeneration of the existing seed bank. Planting has helped absorb and retain water, which has been beneficial to the natural regeneration of open spaces and under tree canopies and supported new plantings. Thus improving the host Grassy Woodland community.

Aprasia is a landscape conservation species typically associated with the fringes of grassy Yellow-Box, Red-Gum Woodland community. Therefore, project efforts focused on improving the condition of the landscape community supporting the habit of the Aprasia, not on the species itself.

The aim was to keep the environment intact by excluding stock grazing in critical areas or by treating areas where disruption had occurred. This was done by planting enclosed pockets of native species to provide seed banks, stepping stones and corridors linking remnant areas; discouraging the spread of weeds through treating priority weeds and encouraging regeneration of native grasses and understorey; and reducing erosion and water quality in the creek line.

The slower water flow rate has itself encouraged the survival of plants instream, with revegetation acting as a filter as well as slowing the rate of waterflow. The reduced exposure of bare soil due to instream revegetation within the project site has greatly reduced erosion of the creek line during recent inundation. (Photos attached)

6. Were there any difficulties or impediments encountered and, if so, how did they influence the outcomes?

Fencing was done during the winter of 2019 and early autumn months of 2020. However, the extreme conditions of the 2019-20 summer meant that planting was delayed till Autumn 2020 to ensure a good survival rate of plants.

Monitoring records were not filed at MCG due to the disruption by Molonglo Consulting being placed in voluntary receivership. In addition, poor management and maintenance by PCS and rural lessee after the completion of the project has made it difficult to estimate the initial survival figures out of 400 plants. In June 2023, I estimate that about 30-50% of plants still survive. The rangers stated that the outcome was "more positive than they had been expecting".

COVID policies meant that engaging the community in plantings was abandoned. This did not affect planting works being carried out in appropriate conditions. However, this will mean that it will be difficult to establish a stewardship group to help with long-term maintenance.

7. Outline any action taken to remedy difficulties or impediments encountered and/or improve the project outcomes.

Plantings were conducted by MCG staff when COVID policies put a stop to community participation.

Project work was completed three months outside the original project time frame (in October 2020). However, reporting of the project could not be completed until the project could be financially reconciled. Two consecutive variations were sought and granted once it

was realized that MCG required more time to confirm its reconciliation of outstanding projects following the placement of Molonglo Consulting into voluntary receivership.

8. What have you or your organisation learnt from this project?

We have learnt that, despite MCG's best efforts, the full commitment and ongoing participation of all stakeholders connected to the project is vital to achieving the best long-term results.

9. Do you or your organisation have any plans to continue, monitor or further develop this project beyond the funded period?

Not immediately. There is the potential to do follow-up work on the site but, given the current poor management of the site and the lack of long-term community stewardship, I don't believe further work would be viable. It would be good to reconsider the situation once the distance of the site from Denman Prospect diminishes as the development of the area continues and residents become more settled and connected to their surrounding environment.

Products of the Funded Activity

10. Has the project produced any documents, brochures, books, articles, newsletters, other artistic works or literary works or advertising?

Yes No If yes, please provide a list of material and include the items with this report, attached if possible.

11. Has any statistics been collected in the course of the project? Yes No

If yes, please attach material to this report.

Financial Report

12. In accordance with Item 3 of Schedule 1 you are required to complete a financial statement and certify Grant expenditure. Please complete the financial statement of all actual expenditure for the Funding Activity, including government, non-government and private, as well as any in-kind contributions. Documentary evidence substantiating this financial statement must be attached to the report.

I have acquitted this grant as discussed with ACT NRM (Brian Butler-Kemp) in 2023. In keeping with current reporting requirements to provide proof of delivery it was agreed that evidence of expenditure, given the circumstances, was not necessary. (See Acquittal Form (attachment 1)). I have, however, provided invoices to the value of \$24,513.92 that are reliable supporting evidence of third-party involvement in delivering the project. Time

sheets were used to calculate MCG labour hire (entered in the Recipient's Contribution column given that there were no reliable invoices available).

	Schedule 2				
	2019-20 ACT Environment Grant Budget				
	Financial Report - Relates to Selection Criteria 4:				
	Piney Creek Restoration and Woodland Connection Project				
	ENV1920-PCRW				
Grant No:					
EXPENDITURE ITEMS	ACT Environment Grant	Actual ACTEG Expenditure	Recipient's Contributions	Other Contributions	Total
	(GST exclusive) \$		(GST exclusive) \$	(GST exclusive) \$	(GST Exclusive)
Environmental Site Assessment					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aprasia ecologist, Govt rate for 5 hours 	\$375.00	No reliable invoice*			
Environment Site Assessment Documentation and Assistance					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCG Project Manager \$45 for 12 hours Based on timesheet 			\$714.30		
Stock Fencing	\$19,700.00	16,995			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 950 metres of fencing 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 plain wire, 1 barbed, 4 gates, 21 stays and strainers 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCG Operations team for 12 days x 3 staff 		No reliable invoice*			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PCS repairing existing boundary fencing 					
Paddock Tree Fencing					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two rectangular enclosures 	\$7,960.00	2,851.28			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access gates 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCG Operations team for 4 days x 3 staff 		No reliable invoice*	\$4,280		

Labour hire based on timesheets: (Alex \$53/hr x 50 hrs (includes contract fencing, checking third party fence, project management) \$2650 = \$2,650x20%=\$3,180 + 2x ops team casuals fencing 44 hrs x \$25/hr = \$1,100).					
Revegetation Equipment					
• 400 Stems	\$1,770.00	836			
• 400 Guards		No reliable invoice*			
• 400 Stakes					
• Water crystals 2kg					
Revegetation Labour					
• MCG Operations team for 1 day x 2 staff including supervision of volunteers Based on timesheets	\$820.00	No reliable invoice*	\$1,257.30		
• PCS contribution follow up plant maintenance and watering					
Revegetation Event	\$70.00				
• Catering		No evidence this happened			
Revegetation Volunteer hours					
• Planting					
• \$33.71 per hour					
• Based on 10 volunteers for 4 hours					
Erosion Control					
MCG operations team for 1 day x 3 staff	\$1,115.00	No evidence this happened			
PCS contribution					

• Rocks for in-stream rock walls		Rocks provided on site but structure not completed			
• Transportation cost					
• PCS labour					
Weed management					
PCS contribution		Unconfirmed, but judging by appearances the condition of the areas does seem to illustrate on weed control is has been conducted.		5,000.00	
• 11.7 hectares of weed management					
• Spot Spraying					
• Chemical costs					
PCS Ranger Project Management					
• Fencing walkthrough and approval		Done		6,000.00	
• Revegetation site preparation		Done			
• Project liaising and project advise		Done			
Project Administration (10%)	\$3,180.00	3,499.00			
Total	34,990.00	34,990.00			

* MCG disputes the value claimed by Molonglo Consulting in their invoices. However, this is part of an over-arching dispute between the two parties and there is no dispute that the work in question was done at this site.

Please attach documentary evidence substantiating this financial statement.

13. Indicate the total Grant received for this project. \$34,990.00

14. Indicate the amount of unexpended Grant (if any). \$0

If the Grant was not expended in accordance with the Deed please provide an explanation.

The grant has been fully spent and all project work was completed. However, MCG is unable to provide full documentary evidence of expenditure. Refer to explanation on the project acquittal form.

Certification of Financial Statement and Acquittal

15. Certification by the signatory to the Deed of Grant for the Funded Activity.

I/We __Karen Williams_ (name) of _Molonglo Conservation Group(organisation)

certify that all information in this report is complete and correct in accordance with the Deed of Grant for this project.

I am aware that:

1. Action may be taken to recover any Grant payment made where the funds received are not used entirely for the purpose(s) for which it was approved.
2. Any unspent funds from the Grant payment must be returned to the ACT Environment Grants unless alternate arrangements have been made with the Grant Administrator.

Signed 

Signed

Name...Karen Williams

Name.....

President & Managing Director

Chief Financial Officer

Date 18/6/2023

Date / /

Please email PDF version or mail this completed Project Evaluation and Financial Report to the address below, ensuring that all attachments are included.

Program Administrator
ACT Environment Grants
Natural Resources Management
Department of the Environment & Sustainability Development Directorate
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601



MOLONGLO CONSERVATION GROUP INCORPORATED
Alex James
PO Box 1862
FYSHWICK ACT 2609
Australia

Your Account No. MOL001
Your Order No. 2020 MOU
Due Date 4 June 20
Payment Terms 14 days

TAX INVOICE 20200958

Page 1 of 2

21 May 20
Greening Australia Limited
c/- Accounts
333 Bennetts Road
NORMAN PARK QLD 4170

ABN 40002963788
Email accounts.info@greeningaustralia.org.au

No.	Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
	Supply of 400 Tubestock Alex James	836.00	1.00	836.00
		Total AUD Excl. GST		836.00
		10% GST		83.60
		Total AUD Incl. GST		919.60

Account Name Greening Australia Limited
BSB 082902
Account No. 696162162
Swift code (only for international transfers) NATAAU3303M



Memorandum of Understanding Propagation and Production of Native Plants

Between

Molonglo Conservation Group

Alex James

alex.james@molonglo.org.au

Mobile: 0401 654 707

Office: 02 6299 2119

And

Greening Australia Limited

Agreement

Greening Australia will propagate and produce the following native plants:

SPECIES	POT SIZE	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE ex GST	COST PRICE	SPECIFIC COMMENTS
Acacia dealbata	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Acacia rubida	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Acacia genistifolia	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Acacia gunnii	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Eucalyptus melliodora	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Eucalyptus blakelyi	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Eucalyptus polyanthemos	Regular forestry	20	\$ 2.09	\$ 41.80	
Leptospermum obovatum	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Leptospermum continentale	Regular forestry	20	\$ 2.09	\$ 41.80	
Callistemon sieberi	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.09	\$ 83.60	
Bursaria sp.	Regular forestry	40	\$ 2.50	\$ 100.00	
	TOTAL	400		\$ 852.40	

Greening Australia Limited
ABN 40 002 963 788
PO Box 538
Jamison Centre, ACT, 2614
T 02 6129 5400

www.greeningaustralia.org.au
cbr.admin@greeningaustralia.org.au

TAX INVOICE



INVOICE NO: 2019 – 003518

Date: 22/10/2019

To: MOLONGLO CONSERVATION GROUP
89/2 Tennants Street
FYSHWICK ACT

KOORINGAL CO PTY LTD
ABN: 83 110 693 528

4/43 MACQUARIE STREET
DUBBO NSW 2830

ATTN: ALEX JAMES
PROGRAMS OFFICER

JAN FARRAR
0438891896

Jan.farrar1@bigpond.com

RURAL FENCE – "PINEY CREEK" URJARRA RD

DESCRIPTION	GST	AMOUNT
ACT SMALL ENVIROMENT GROUP VALUE OF WORKS: \$18,695 [inc] GST KOORINGAL QUOTE NO: 2019-0919		
970mts RURAL FENCE 3 X RURAL GATES 1 X FLOOD GATE		\$16,995,46
TOTAL ex GST		\$16,995,46
GST	\$1,699,54	
TOTAL INVOICE		\$18,695,00

PAYMENT TERMS WITHIN 14 DAYS PLEASE

BANKING DETAILS: BRANCH: ORANA MUTUAL – DUBBO
BSB: 932000
A/C: 49093

With thanks
JAN FARRAR
KOORINGAL CO PTY LTD

Koorinal Co Invoicing

MetalMart

A.B.N.: 82 635 367 449
 53 Collie Street Fyshwick ACT 2609
 Phone: 0262392422 Fax: 0262804114

Tax Invoice

Invoice No	283154	Date	25/03/2020 11:51AM	Order No	piney creek
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Invoiced To Justin Hurley Molonglo Catchment Group PO Box 850 QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620	Deliver To:
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PH: 6299 2119

Bar code	Description	Tax	Price \$	Qty	Total \$
angas	Angas Wire 2.5mm HT 1500m (100305)	GST	206.976	2	413.95
angas	Angas Hinge Joint 8/90/30 200m (100445)	GST	364.626	2	729.25
STP1650	1650 POST Black (183720) near roller do [RRP 6.80]	GST	6.50	100	650.00
GRI	Med Gripples	GST	3.564	50	178.20
STRAIN	Strainer/Stay Bolt On Assembly Gal [RRP 115.44]	GST	100.00	10	1,000.00

No. of Items (164)

Invoice & Account Details			Invoice Totals	
Invoice No.	Payment Due	Account ID	Sub Total	\$2,971.40
283154	30/4/2020	C1556		
Account Manager	Tim Miller		Rounding	\$0.00
Invoice Received by			Tax	\$270.13
Name	Signature		TOTAL inc GST	\$2,971.40

Account Terms & Conditions

Terms of Trade - Nett 30 days EOM
 All items remain the property of BKCC Pty Ltd t/as Metal Mart until paid in full. Any outstanding debts will incur additional fees and charges.

Direct Deposit BKCC Pty Ltd BSB 032-746 ACC 013373 T/AS METAL MART
 (duplicate copy, printed 30/03/2020)

MetalMart

A.B.N.: 82 635 367 449
53 Collie Street Fyshwick ACT 2609
Phone: 0262392422 Fax: 0262804114

Tax Invoice

Invoice No	283253	Date	26/03/2020 2:32PM	Order No	piney 2
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Invoiced To Justin Hurley Molonglo Catchment Group PO Box 850 QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620	Deliver To:
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PH: 6299 2119

Bar code	Description	Tax	Price \$	Qty	Total \$
RSET20	20kg Rapid Set (14049) [RRP 8.50]	GST	8.25	20	165.00

No. of Items (20)

Invoice & Account Details			Invoice Totals	
Invoice No.	Payment Due	Account ID	Sub Total	\$165.00
283253	30/4/2020	C1556		
Account Manager	Jordan White		Rounding	\$0.00
Invoice Received by			Tax	\$15.00
Name	Signature		TOTAL inc GST	\$165.00

Account Terms & Conditions

Terms of Trade - Nett 30 days EOM
All items remain the property of BKCC Pty Ltd t/as Metal Mart until paid in full. Any outstanding debts will incur additional fees and charges.

Direct Deposit BKCC Pty Ltd BSB 032-746 ACC 013373 T/AS METAL MART
(duplicate copy, printed 30/03/2020)