



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Grants Administrator use only

Received: ____/____/____

Accepted Yes No

Grant Officer _____

2019-2020 ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROJECT EVALUATION AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Project Title: Mount Pleasant Nature reserve – Restoration of Box Gum Woodland area through Weed Control and Revegetation

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.



ACT
Government

Environment and Planning

Project Report

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.

The grant was awarded in June 2019, with the purpose of spraying out industrial-sized concentrations of vinca, blackberry and St John's Wort to an extent that they could be controlled by the local group of volunteers.

The project went through 3 phases:

1. brush-cut the vinca
2. spray out the weeds vinca, blackberry and St John's Wort
3. mulch and revegetate

Parks and Conservation (PCS) advised us to brushcut the vinca first, and then spray it when it began to grow back vigorously. PCS conducted brush cutting of vinca and by August 2019 had logged 43 hours on this activity.

The second phase was to engage contractors to spray out the three weeds. The plan was for a series of sprayings because the vinca was expected to re-sprout. Vinca, blackberry and other incidental weeds were sprayed by Molonglo Conservation Group on two separate occasions and this was complemented by spot spraying by PCS staff.

The third phase commenced with mulching the area where the vinca infestation was thickest, and following further treatment of the vinca in this area by volunteers and PCS staff (spot-spraying and hand-weeding), the Mt Pleasant ParkCare group planted 500 plants native to the area in place of the vinca. This took place in April-July 2021. The plants were selected on the advice of PCS staff and bought from Provincial Nursery at Pialligo.

PCS has installed and re-filled water cubes and watering plants over the hotter months will be carried out by volunteer groups.

Monitoring of weed regrowth and success rates of planting is ongoing and is being conducted by Mt Pleasant volunteers (and PCS rangers when time permits).

Before



Project site



Healthy vinca



Ranger Kym brush-cutting vinca



Resprouting vinca

After



Dead Blackberry



Mulch



volunteer



Kangaroo Apples and new plantings



where vinca was thickest

2. Actual Start Date: August 2019

Actual Completion Date: May 2021

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?

The project has achieved the milestones. An area thickly infested with vinca has been transformed and revegetated. The blackberry growing on the banks of a gully has virtually been eliminated. Vinca has been severely curtailed. Both will require monitoring and this will be carried out by volunteer staff with the occasional assistance of PCS staff. Spraying of St John's Wort had to be limited to an area above a transversal concrete path because of fears of erosion if the whole slope was sprayed at one time. It will require further action.

The date of completing activities under the grant had to be extended because of delays first from the drought of 2019-20, and then the COVID pandemic which closed the reserve. Our contract with ACT Environment was extended at our request.

Project Evaluation

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

The project was successful in achieving its main objective of establishing a 1-hectare restoration area in the Mt Pleasant reserve by killing and clearing a large infestation of Vinca and treating other invasive weeds including blackberry that were impeding successful application of herbicides on the Vinca target. Native tubestock were then planted to regenerate the treated area.

Blackberry growing **on the banks of** a gully has virtually been eliminated. **Vinca has been** severely curtailed. Spraying of St John's Wort was successful in the areas it was carried out, but this is a pervasive weed and will require further action.

Five hundred tube stock plants have been sown in areas previously occupied by a thick monoculture of vinca. The success rate has been nearly 100 per cent but these are recent plantings and yet to be tested over a Canberra summer.

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

See above milestones

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

Contracted spraying was completed before internal changes within Molonglo Conservation Group affected administration and management of the project. These changes associated with subsidiary company Molonglo Consulting being placed in liquidation meant that MC contractors were no longer available to provide follow-up spraying.

We sought and were granted an extension of the project first because of the drought conditions of 2019-20, and then because of COVID. We had no difficulty buying the plants we wanted from Provincial Nursery, and generally the price and quality of plants were good.

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

An extension of the project was sought to provide time for Mt Pleasant volunteers to carry out follow-up spraying and address a project underspend due to withdrawal of Molonglo Consulting contractors from the project, planting to be completed and Molonglo Conservation Group to complete reporting within the grant timeframe.

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

Molonglo Conservation Group has had its belief in the vision and capability of Mt Pleasant Park care group reinforced as volunteers achieved their objectives displaying leadership and a high degree of competency. Molonglo Conservation Group continue to recognize the value of partnership in delivering project objectives: the stronger the partnership (in this instance Molonglo Conservation, PCS, ACT NRM and the volunteers) the greater the potential outcome.

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

Mt Pleasant Park care group intends to monitor the weed control and plantings after the project is reported. The group made an unsuccessful bid in the 2021-22 ACT Environment Grants for funding for the erection of a rabbit proof fence for the restoration area. The application was unsuccessful because of concerns for the impact of such a fence on the surrounding landscape. The group will revisit the idea after further consultation with PCS about rabbit control measures currently being considered.

We are in negotiation with both Defence Housing Australia and Transport Canberra and City Services, about providing funding and support for weed control and revegetation activities in the Reserve. DHS is constructing 35 units at Academy Close in the northern section of the Reserve, and we are talking to them about removing industrial rubbish and supporting weed removal and revegetation in the area around their development. They have been willing at other developments around Australia been willing to offer this support.

TCCS is responsible for the verge between roads such as Northcott Drive and the fence boundary of the Reserve. This area is infested with woody weeds and we are talking to them about support for removing these weeds.

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.

We report on our activities on the Mt Pleasant Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/466922074094210>

11. Has any statistics been collected in the course of the project? Yes No
500 new plants inserted

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.

Schedule 2					
2019-20 ACT Environment Grant Budget					
	Financial Report - Relates to Selection Criteria 4:				
	Mt Pleasant Nature Reserve: Restoration of Box-Gum Woodland through Weed Control and Revegetation				
Grant No:	ENV1920-MPWR				
EXPENDITURE ITEMS	ACT Environment Grant	Actual ACT Environment Grant	Recipient's Contrib	Actual Recipients Contribution	Total
	(GST exclusive) \$		(GST exclusive) \$	(GST exclusive) \$	(GST exclusive) \$
Hire spray contractor to cut back and spray vinca, blackberry and St John's Wort	8,000.00	7,846			7,846
200 hours of volunteer time by Mt Pleasant Parkcare Group plus 180 hours of volunteer time by ADFA cadets Mt Pleasant Park care 17 volunteers @ 200hrs x \$33.71 = \$6,742			12,810.00	6,742	6,742
100 hours by Parks and Conservation staff to brush cut and spray vinca, work on				\$4,700	4,700

revegetation, provide and spread mulch (PCS 60 hours + planting, mulching, filling water cube, planning, approvals. @ 50/hr = \$3,000 PCS 43 hours on cutting and spraying vinca @ 34hrs x \$50 = \$1,700)					
Purchase seedlings for revegetation operations	1,000.00	1,375			1,375
50 hours volunteer time by Mt Pleasant Parkcare group to plant and monitor seedlings Mt Pleasant park care 17 volunteers (50hrs) = \$1,635			\$1,685.50	1,635.50	1,635.50
Administrative expenses	700.00	479			479
Total	\$9,700.00	9,700.00		\$13,077.50	21,142.00

Please attach documentary evidence substantiating this financial statement.

13. Indicate the total Grant received for this project. \$9,700.00

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.

Certification of Financial Statement and Acquittal

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

I/We Karen Williams of Molonglo Conservation Group

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.....

Chief Executive Officer:

Chief Financial Officer

Date 26 / 7/2021

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