

## Attachment C - Communities Environment Program

### End of project report

Project number	CEP79953
Grantee name	Molonglo Conservation Group
Project title	Creating an Urban Microforest

*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](mailto:CEP2019contracts@industry.gov.au).

#### 1. Project achievements

a. Please confirm:

YES

NO\*

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

\*Contact us at [CEP2019contracts@industry.gov.au](mailto: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.

<p>Molonglo Conservation Group partnered with local enterprise, The Climate Factory, to develop a landscape plan for urban open space on the flood plain immediately adjacent to Sullivan's Creek in the Canberra suburb of Lyneham. The plan was developed in close consultation with the local community and representative body, Lyneham Community Association. The landscape plan, species selection and ongoing maintenance was done in close consultation with the land manager, Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) in order to meet with their management requirements.</p> <p>Local residents participated in two planting field days to establish the microforest, working alongside experienced Government staff, contractors and volunteers to plant the microforest, ensuring the sharing of knowledge and the building of relationships for more successful environmental and social outcomes. Participants were trained in improving the soil, planting tubestock, follow-up mulching and watering. The project provided hand tools, plants and soil additives, and covered the cost of drilling holes for plants, the landscape design, approvals, safety equipment and signage.</p> <p>To ensure maintenance of the site, the microforest group has been registered as a volunteer group with TCCS and a convenor has been appointed. Molonglo Conservation Group will continue to liaise with the Lyneham microforest group to monitor plants and habitat values.</p> <p>Lessons learned: The to undertake Monitoring in the longer term by volunteers and MCG staff, inputting information into relevant citizen science programs e.g Collector &amp; Canberra Nature Map was reviewed</p>
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and deemed to be unrealistic because, in this situation, monitoring change due to the addition of a microforest within an existing habitat requires specialists. Volunteers will be encouraged to include monitoring in their maintenance program through the offer of training in the Collector app. (ACT Parks and Conservation training course) to provide a simple monitoring of number of species sightings.

b. Complete the following table on community participation.

	Question	Number
1.	How many people participated in your project (excluding employees)?	47
2.	What was the total area (ha) over which your project on-ground activities were undertaken?	0.015
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?	40
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 / <input type="checkbox"/>
		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
Education activities and raising community awareness / participation (e.g. field days, planting days, workshops)	47	number of community participation and engagement events
	2	number of community groups participating in project activities
	40	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. Phytophthora)		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	0.015	total area of revegetation (ha)
		total kilograms of seed sown (kg)
	1000	total number of new plants planted
Weed control	0.015	total area controlled (ha)
Waste reduction – prevent/remove		total area over which waste was removed from

Activity	Unit	Unit of measure
(e.g. clean up days, litter collection traps)		the environment (ha)
To avoid double counting, report either weight <u>or</u> volume for any given item.		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 <sup>3</sup> )
Waste reduction – recover/recycle (e.g. recycled waste drop off / clean up day / litter collection trap materials)		total kilograms of waste recovered for re-use or recycled (kg)
		total cubic metre volume of waste recovered for re-use or recycled (m <sup>3</sup> )
To avoid double counting, report either weight <u>or</u> volume for any given item.		

### 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.

Trees are one of the most important elements in the landscape and play a vital role in absorbing carbon via photosynthesis. The carbon is stored in a tree's trunks, leaves and roots. Trees also cool the ground beneath them, essential when dealing with the Urban Heat Island effect (UHI). The UHI occurs in cities and towns due to a loss of vegetation and hard surfaces, like concrete and bitumen that absorb heat and re-radiate the heat at night-time. Hard surfaces also prevent rainwater from penetrating and cooling the ground. Commonly temperatures in cities and towns are hotter than surrounding rural areas. Studies have found that the ground underneath a tree's canopy can be between 2 and 10 degrees cooler than the surrounding area.

1000 tubestock (groundcovers, shrubs and small trees) were planted by 47 local residents to enhance ground cover and middle-storey species in area of an urban open space beneath a stand of mature Eucalypt and casurina growing adjacent to Sullivan's Creek. ). 150sq meters of garden beds were established to enhance habitat of a 4,400 sq meter area of urban open space.

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.

Sullivan's Creek has been significantly concreted over the past decades to reduce erosion through rapid flowing stormwater due to urban densification. An urban wetland was created in the creek channel some 15 -20 years ago to slow flows and improve water quality. Eucalypts were planted on the adjacent flood plain. The Microforest plots will provide a link between the existing mature trees and urban wetlands in and adjacent to the Sullivan's Creek channel, and nearby residential gardens.

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?

An urban park group has been registered with Transport Canberra and City Services for the ongoing maintenance of the Lyneham Microforest. The group convenor appointed and trained in compliance

with approved management practices. Participants were trained in planting and maintenance of the microforest plots. Participants will be engaged in ongoing activities to monitor plants survival and habitat improvements and will be provided Collector App training through ACT Parks and Conservation to monitor presence of species. Social media is being used to maintain communication of the results to group members and the wider community.

#### 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:**



After







## 5. Certification

I, Karen Williams, President, 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 27/7/2021.