

Attachment C - Communities Environment Program

End of project report

Project number	CEP80793
Grantee name	Molonglo Conservation Group
Project title	Forbs Conservation and Propagation

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	Yes	
You spent the entire grant amount and any financial contribution and cash co-contribution to undertake the approved project	Yes	
You spent the majority of the grant amount on on-ground eligible activities	Yes	

*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.

At the start of the project it was too dry and there were no seeds to collect, then Covid19 restrictions and then MCG internal changes delayed progress. However, the project successfully reintroduced herbaceous wildflowers or forbs to the grassy woodlands of Mt Majura through planting of tubestock in existing and new fenced exclosure plots by volunteers of Friends of Mount Majura. The fenced plots were deep-soil ripped and planted with a range of native forbs including rare, endangered and native food species. Project funds were mostly used to provide fencing materials, and ripping and fencing labour and plants. Once established the plants will act as a 'Noah's Arc' of species or a 'Seeding Node' to re-populate the surrounding area via natural seed dispersal. Some plants were lost after the spring planting due to an innodation of weeds following rain. Weeding efforts took up much of the group effort in preparing for the autumn planting. The skilled volunteer who was monitoring the plants withdrew, so the monitoring method was simplified to presence and absence survey so that other members of the group are now monitoring the autumn plantings over the next few seasons.

b. Complete the following table on community participation.

	Question	Number
1.	How many people participated in your project (excluding employees)?	25

	Question	Number
2.	What was the total area (ha) over which your project on-ground activities were undertaken? 10mx20m plots x 4	0.08ha
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?	0
4.	Has your organisation completed similar activities prior to participating in the Communities Environment Program? If yes,	Yes
	(a) how many activities/events were held in the 12 months before this project?	2
	(b) on average, how many people participated in each activity/event?	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)	2	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)	2	number of community participation and engagement events
		number of community groups participating in project activities
		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)	0.24	total length of fence erected (km)
	0.08	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	0.08	total area of revegetation (ha)
		total kilograms of seed sown (kg)
	1,200	total number of new plants planted
Weed control	0.08	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)		total kilograms of waste recovered for re-use or recycled (kg)
		total cubic metre volume of waste recovered for

Activity	Unit	Unit of measure
To avoid double counting, report either weight <u>or</u> volume for any given item.		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 threatened Box-Gum Grassy Woodland community of Mt Majura is affected by heavy grazing pressure from a large local kangaroo population. Consequently, it's difficult to revegetate ground level species via standard planting practices. Four 10m x 20 meter fenced exclosures were constructed to complement one existing exclosure. The ground within the exclosures was deep-ripped and 1200 forbs turbstock were planted.

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.

The objective was to create nodes that will repopulate the surrounding Box-Gum Grassy Woodland via natural seed dispersal, by undertaking exclusion fencing and high-density planting within four separate nodes. The nodes are intended to act as a kind of Noah's Arc of species, providing seed to be hand propagated and planted in surrounding areas, or given to the Australian Botanical Garden Seed Bank. Additionally, has improved the skills capacity of the Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) group through planting and monitoring activities. Seed dispersal and plant recruitment outside the node are being monitored within the park by FoMM, and these volunteers will also undertake maintenance such as weeding, watering, fence maintenance and replacement planting if required.

Long-term environmental benefits include:

- Increased diversity of Natural Temperate Grassland and Box-Gum Grassy Woodland through establishment and care of rare and endangered forb species within a fenced area.
- Development of an ongoing source of seed dispersal within the reserve, leading to revegetation in surrounding areas despite kangaroo grazing pressure.
- Strengthened capacity of volunteer group to identify seed, collect data, and therefore monitor any vegetation improvement on their site.
- Capability to offer future workshops on indigenous native plant use and harvesting of those foods.

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 were included in Species consultation with Greening Australia plant specialists which contributed to plant ID skills for future monitoring of plantings and recruitment outside of the exclusion areas.

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 15/7/2021