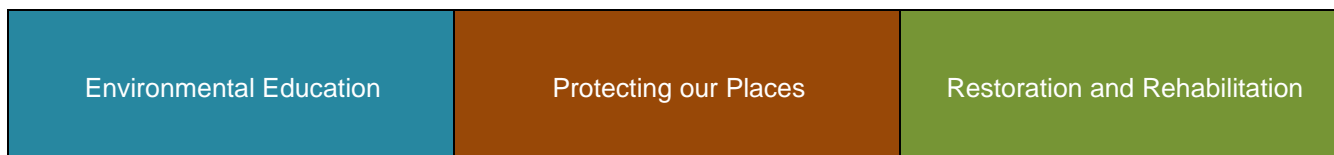


Progress and final reporting form

Grant reference number	2016/RR/0047	Total grant amount	\$ 74,920
Project title	Wandiyali Banks to Bush Riparian Linkages Project		
Grantee organisation	Molonglo Conservation Group (previously known as Molonglo Catchment Group Inc)		
Person submitting this report			
Contact number			
Are you the primary contact?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If No, what is your role in the project?			
Report type	Progress <input type="checkbox"/> or Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
What stage of the project are you reporting on?	Stage 2 of 2 stages		
Actual period covered in this report	From 5-Sep-2017 to 1-Oct-2020		
Note: final reports should cover the life of the project			

Use this template to complete your progress and final reports for grants under the following programs:



If necessary, please provide additional information as an attachment to this report.

Along with this report, you must also submit the following:

- Project Measures Table updated based on your initially approved set of project measures.
- [Financial reporting spreadsheet](#) select progress or final financial spreadsheet as appropriate.
- If applicable, a tax Invoice for the next instalment of your grant.

Completed documents must all be submitted by email to the Trust (Note: emails cannot exceed 10MB).

You must use your grant reference number in the subject line (e.g. 2015/RR/5555 progress report 3)

If you have any questions or require help at any stage, please contact your Grants Administrator on (02) 8837 6093 or by email at info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au

Note: The answer boxes will expand to the length required as you write your report.

1 Summary

Provide a summary of progress to date, approximately 200–500 words (cover the life of the project if this is your final report).

The project has successfully protected and enhanced a total of 115 hectares of remnant vegetation connected by a 3.3km long riparian corridor. It has done this by:

- stabilising land and constructing fences to exclude livestock from the riparian zone (as well as a large adjoining area not initially in the project plan), to encourage natural regeneration over an area of 60 hectares;
- infill planting of 4000 diverse native trees, shrubs and ground cover species in areas where species have been slow to regenerate or disappeared altogether due to previous agricultural use (twice the number initially planned);
- controlling weeds including willows (a highly invasive species that is a declared Weed of National Significance) growing along the entire lengths of the riparian zone; and
- constructing a new dam to provide livestock with an alternative water source away from the riparian zone.

The long-term benefits of the project are expected to include less erosion, weeds and water contamination, and more habitat for wildlife, farm productivity and landscape resilience.

2 List of Contractors involved/employed in your project

Provide a list of contractors (company/sole trader name) employed during the reporting period for this project. Also include contact details and a brief description (50 word maximum) of the activities performed.

Contractor name	Contact details (email)	Value of contract	Selection process	Description of activity
Bullmore Rural	Chris Bullmore, bullmorerural@gmail.com	\$16,045	One quote (\$3,000 - \$30,000)	Conducting fencing activities
Greening Australia	Ange Calliess, ACalliess@greeningaustralia.org.au	\$9,200	One quote (\$3,000 - \$30,000)	Supply of plants and planting supplies
J and J French Agriculture	Jack French, Jack.jenfrench@hotmail.com	\$7,679	One quote (\$3,000 - \$30,000)	Weed control services
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Brian Butler, BButler@cva.org.au	\$6,750	One quote (\$3,000 - \$30,000)	Conducting planting activities
Darmody Earthmoving	Bernie Darmody, Ph: 0429 440 203	\$4,400	One quote (\$3,000 - \$30,000)	Construction of dam to be used for alternative livestock water source
Molonglo Consulting	Tony Webster, tony.webster@molonglo.org.au		Other	

If **other** is selected for any of the contractors listed above, please provide an explanation of how contractor selection was made (limit response to a maximum of 300 words).

Molonglo Conservation Group staff managed the project until they were moved to our subsidiary company Molonglo Consulting in early 2020, where they continued to manage the project. Molonglo Consulting continued to deliver the project under working agreement until it was placed into liquidation. Mr Webster is no longer associated with Molonglo Conservation Group.

3 Activities and outputs

Based on your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan please fill out the following Objectives tables (you can copy and paste from your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan) and provide comment on your progress against each objective. Please use one table for each of your objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1	Work with landholders to undertake on ground works including weed control, planting and stock exclusion to increase biodiversity, reduce soil loss and enhance remnant vegetation on 45ha riparian land on four properties as important links in the landscape.
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Activity	Project measure (from the Project Measures Table and any other project measures that are relevant to your project but not listed in the Project Measures Table)	Total projected outputs	Total actual outputs (Cumulative total to date)	Projected activity completion date	Actual activity completion date	Comments (Provide comments on variations, if any, between your projections and your actual outputs including where you have exceeded your projected outputs. Provide detail on any changes of approach you will be taking or have taken to ensure the activity is/was met).
Co-ordinate on-ground works and seek advice from OEH (Damon Oliver from Queanbeyan) re planned works and Threatened Species and EEC presence	Consultation complete	1	N/A	1 February 2018 and 1 February 2019	2020	Advice was obtained from OEH early in the project, and most planned on-ground works were completed in the 2017–18 financial year. After all planned works were completed in 2019, it emerged that the total cost of the project was less than expected and additional works were negotiated with the Trust project officer. These additional works were completed in 2020.
	SC2 – People employed using Trust funds	1	1			
	SC2 – Combined hours contributed	100	50			
	SC4 – Non-Trust Funded Staff involved	4	4			
	SC4 – Combined hours contributed	50	50			
Negotiate 3 ten-year landholder agreements and one Council Memorandum of Understanding	LM19 - Organisations or stakeholders adopting improved land management practices	4	4	1 February 2018	January 2019	Three ten-year land management agreements were put in place for Wandiyali, Environa and Castle Mountain.
	LM20 - Land and fire management plans / agreements developed	4	3			
Provide alternative water to offset loss of direct water supply on one property.	WM3 - Devices, systems or products installed to improve water quality	1	2	1 February 2018	November 2017	A new dam was constructed in the paddock to provide water for livestock that have been excluded from the riparian zone. Using their own initiative and resources, the landholder has since created a new 10 ha nature reserve around most of the dam but left a narrow gravel walkway for cattle to access the dam. This has ensured the stability of the dam edge, and will maximise the potential for * natural regeneration of native vegetation * filtration of water entering the dam and * habitat for wildlife.
	SC3 - Consultants/contractors engaged by Trust Funds	1	1			
	SC3 - Combined hours contributed	N/A	58 hrs			

Activity	Project measure (from the Project Measures Table and any other project measures that are relevant to your project but not listed in the Project Measures Table)	Total projected outputs	Total actual outputs (Cumulative total to date)	Projected activity completion date	Actual activity completion date	Comments (Provide comments on variations, if any, between your projections and your actual outputs including where you have exceeded your projected outputs. Provide detail on any changes of approach you will be taking or have taken to ensure the activity is/was met).
Fencing of riparian zones to link and / or enhance patches of remnant vegetation. Protect and enhance 45 ha of riparian corridor (3.3km stream) and link and enhance 100 ha of remnant vegetation.	WM5 - Area of land stabilised by installing erosion control measures	45 ha	60 ha	1 February 2018 1 August 2018	See comments	A total of 2.2km of fencing was constructed in two stages. The initial 1.7km was constructed in early 2017 with the rest completed after there had been enough rain to fill the new dam and provide water for livestock. A 20 ha area on one side of Jerrabomberra Creek was fenced, a 10 ha area along a tributary to Jerrabomberra Creek (Old Pops Creek) was fenced and the approx. 20 ha riparian corridor has had livestock excluded. The landholder also fenced an additional 10 ha area around the new dam as noted above, bringing the total area that is fenced and now regenerating to 60 ha and the total habitat fenced and the total area of connected habitat to 115 ha.
	LM2 - Area regenerating	45 ha	60 ha	1 February 2019		
	LM7 - Area protected by fencing	45 ha	60 ha	1 July 2019		
	LM8 - Length of fencing installed	2.2 km	2.2 km			
	LM9 - Area of habitat corridors (terrestrial or aquatic) established	45 ha	60			
	LM10 - Area of connected habitat (terrestrial or aquatic) linked	100 ha	115 ha			
	SC3 - Consultants/contractors engaged by Trust Funds	1	1			
	SC3 - Combined hours contributed	N/A	75 hrs			
Planting of tubestock on three properties using plants grown from locally native seed.	LM3 – Area revegetated	5 ha	6 ha	1 August 2018 and 1 August 2019	Planned planting – 1 August 2018 Expanded plantings (not in original plan) – August 2020	All planting has been completed using locally native seed, and good growth has occurred. See photopoints and rapid assessments of riparian condition in detail section below. The survival rate of the initial 2000 plantings was excellent despite very hot dry summers. Standout species included <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> (estimated 98% survival rate), <i>Acacia dealbata</i> and <i>Callistemon sieberi</i> . As parts of the expansion of the project negotiated with the Trust in mid-2020, an additional ~2000 plants were purchased from Greening Australia and planted by volunteers over 3 mornings. Mainly <i>Lomandra</i> , <i>Juncus</i> and <i>Carex</i> , these plantings along the creek will provide a greater diversity of habitat for wildlife as well as improving creek bank stability, water quality and landscape hydration.
	LM4 - Number of plantings	2000	4000			
	LM5 - Survival rate of plantings	80%	>90%			
	SC3 - Consultants/contractors engaged by Trust Funds	1	1			
	SC3 - Combined hours contributed	70 hrs	54 hrs			
Undertake control of Willows along Jerrabomberra Creek.	Length of primary weeding along creek	3.3 km	3.3 km	1 August 2018 and 1 August 2019	April 2017 and April 2018	Willow control was undertaken by a contractor in 2017 with the landholder undertaking minor follow up work in April 2018. The work has been highly effective (see photo report) and no further willow control work is required at this stage.
	LM6 - Area of primary weeding	2 ha	2 ha			
	SC3 – Consultants/contractors engaged by Trust Funds	1	1			
	SC3 - Combined hours contributed	91 hrs	100 hrs			

How are you progressing towards your view of what successfully meeting this objective would look like as stated in your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan?

There is always room for improvement but in our view, we have met and significantly exceeded this objective overall especially when it comes to the area protected, the number of plantings, the variety of habitats now established and the extent of volunteer engagement. Conditions on Wandiyali in particular are continuing to improve – a flock of threatened Flame Robins (*Petroica phoenicea*) was seen for the first time and photographed on site in July 2020.

OBJECTIVE 2	Engage community to increase awareness and support for the project and environmental issues more broadly and encourage landholders to improve riparian management, including preventing livestock from accessing riparian land and conducting revegetation.
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Activity	Project measure (from the Project Measures Table and any other project measures that are relevant to your project but not listed in the Project Measures Table)	Total projected outputs	Total actual outputs (Cumulative total to date)	Projected activity completion date	Actual activity completion date	Comments (Provide comments on variations, if any, between your projections and your actual outputs including where you have exceeded your projected outputs. Provide detail on any changes of approach you will be taking or have taken to ensure the activity is/was met).
Raise awareness by undertaking community on-farm events to promote the importance of vegetation connectivity and riparian management within the larger landscape.	SC13 - Awareness raising events	2	0	1 August 2018 and 1 August 2019	Completed, see comments	Multiple field days have been organised as part of this project – 3 field days were held in 2020 alone to show off the on-ground works and engage Intrepid Landcare, Wandiyali Rangers and other volunteers in planting work.
	SC14 – Attendees at awareness raising events	30	60			
	SC2 – People employed using Trust funds	1	1			
	SC2 – Combined hours contributed	24.25 hours	30 hours			
	SC4 – Non-Trust Funded Staff involved	4	4			
	SC4 - Combined hours contributed	50 hours	60 hours			
Implement a strong communications strategy to engage the broader community and existing partnerships through a variety of mediums.	SC16 - Individuals potentially reached	100	400	1 August 2018 and 1 August 2019	Completed, see comments	Information on the project has been included in quarterly newsletters sent out to Molonglo Catchment Group members, reported in local catchment network meetings and promoted on social media by MCG and the Wandiyali Restoration Trust. It is difficult to estimate the total reach of these measures but Facebook reporting shows a single Facebook post by MCG reached 144 people and we posted project updates including photos on 16 September 2017, 27 June 2018, 30 August 2018 and 15 May 2020. Wandiyali Restoration Trust also posted a number of additional project updates.
	Regular member newsletters sent that include information on project (number over whole project)	4	4			
	Report on project at quarterly ACT catchment group meetings (number over whole project)	4	5			
	Project updates on MCG social media (number)	4	4			
Engagement of key volunteers to undertake specific tasks including Vegwatch monitoring and revegetation activities.	SC5 - Volunteers involved (not including CVA staff and hours)	5 people	54 people	1 August 2018 and 1 August 2019	Completed, see comments	The project initially involved 6 days of Conservation Volunteers Australia planting, approx. 36 volunteers and approx. 36 hours. The three landholders also contributed approx. 30 hours of time to the project. The expansion of the project in 2020 involved another 3 days of planting by Intrepid Landcare, Wandiyali Rangers and the landholder, approx. 18 volunteers and 32 hours.
	SC5 - hours	60 hours	100 hours			

How are you progressing towards your view of what successfully meeting this objective would look like as stated in your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan?

As part of this project, a significant number of community volunteers undertook on-ground activities and were introduced to conservation projects and landcare groups in the region. These volunteers included Green Army team members, approx. 36 volunteers (6 teams) from Conservation Volunteers Australia, as well as Intrepid Landcare (ANU Branch) and a new group specific to this conservation area – the Wandiyali Rangers.

Field days have also been organised through the Wandiyali Restoration Trust to enable the broader community to learn more about practical ways to manage threats to biodiversity especially in riparian areas. To reach the widest possible audience, field days were promoted through

- Molonglo Conservation Group events (including other events on one of the four properties run through another project)
- in partnership with local landcare groups, landholders and nearby urban and peri-urban residents.

Landholders interested in carrying out their own conservation projects were also provided with information about possible funding sources for such works, including from the BCT through the Land for Wildlife program and through the SE LLS Scarlet Robin project.

4 Reflection on your monitoring processes

Provide a brief summary on the implementation of your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. Be sure to address the following questions:

- How well has your monitoring been established?
- How have you obtained your data and what does it show?
- How have you involved your stakeholders and how well has this worked?

Monitoring methods Effective photopoints were established and assessments completed using the rapid appraisal of riparian condition method (the RARC method*) before work started to establish baseline conditions. Photopoints and riparian assessments were repeated 10 months after the start of the project showing initial changes due to the project. Additional photos were taken in 2020.

Data collection and results. Photopoint monitoring has demonstrated the change in the landscape due to woody weed control and planting, as well as healthy growth in plantings to the point where some photopoints could not be used as the view was obscured by growth. Recent photos published by the landholder on social media show growth in excess of 2m for early plantings of larger shrub/tree species.

RARC scores show a measurable improvement in riparian condition. At RARC site 1 (Jerrabomberra Creek on Wandiyali), the riparian score increased from 17/50 to 20/50 (34% to 40%). The main reason for the improvement is the increase in the canopy species regeneration, understorey species regeneration and understorey cover scoring indicators. At RARC site 2 (Jerrabomberra Creek on Castle Mountain), the RARC score increased slightly from 21.25/50 to 21.5/50 (42.5% to 43%). This result may have been due to the site being in a better condition at the start of the project, and due to the fact that the transects were regrettably not placed in exactly the same location as the first round of surveys. See figure in attached photopoint monitoring document.

Two ground cover assessments were also completed at the start of the project in an area where livestock had recently been excluded from. Ground cover in the area was high (>80%), most likely due to low cattle stocking rates at that time) and was not expected to increase significantly over the life of the project so follow up assessments were not required.

Stakeholder involvement. Landholders are committed to the project and one of the landholders has conducted additional on-ground activities, creating an additional small nature reserve and increasing the area protected from livestock and naturally regenerating well above what was planned. Four different volunteer groups (Green Army, Greening Australia, Intrepid Landcare and the Wandiyali Rangers) have also contributed their time and enthusiasm to the project, again at a level well above what was originally proposed.

*RARC method: Jansen, A., Robertson, A., Thompson, L., Wilson, A. & Flanery, F. 2007, 'Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition, Technical guideline for the southern tablelands of New South Wales', Land & Water Australia, Canberra.

5 Project evaluation

This section gives you an opportunity to evaluate the project as a whole rather than against individual objectives/activities as per your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (cover the life of the project if this is your final report).

5.1 Progress

How would you assess the project is progressing/ has progressed overall?

The project has met or exceeded all milestones for on-ground work activities: revegetation, riparian weed control, livestock exclusion with fencing, erosion control and construction of alternative livestock water supply.

The area of habitat available for native fauna has increased and regeneration of native riparian vegetation is occurring as a result of the successful control of willows, exclusion of livestock and supplementary plantings.

Project field days and major project promotion has not been completed and this will be the focus of activities in the second year of the project. The project has been promoted in newsletters, local catchment network meetings and on social media.

5.2 Issues/challenges

What (if any) problems have you encountered and how have you dealt with, or how do you intend to deal with them?

Please include any issues that the Trust, as the funding body, should know about. You should refer to the risk management section of your Monitoring and Evaluation Plan as well as include any other issues that have arisen.

Early on, there were some miscommunication issues, where landholders carried out or arranged for contractors to do work earlier than planned. This did not affect the outcomes of the project, but required some quick action to ensure that all work was mapped and recorded in enough detail, and that photopoints and other monitoring was completed as required.

Most on-ground works were completed per the project plan, including planting, initial weed control, and construction of a new dam to provide water for stock and most riparian (livestock exclusion) fencing. However, due to the ongoing requirement to provide stock with access to water, construction of remaining riparian fencing was delayed until the new dam filled with water. This necessitated a variation in the contract plan and timeframes.

5.3 Opportunities

- What are the lessons learned and/or other opportunities related to the project?
- How could benefits from the project be spread more widely?

A key lesson learnt was about the need for more careful survey work (including plot marking and record keeping). This is important so RARC surveys can be done on the same plots for comparison purposes, photopoints are aimed in an appropriate direction and positioned so the view is not blocked by future vegetation growth etc.

5.4 Project outcomes

Describe the three most important outcomes that your project has achieved during this reporting period. Why do you see them this way?

1. Habitat for wildlife: as a result of fencing work and livestock exclusion, a total area of 60 ha is now available for natural regeneration of riparian and woodland vegetation, and as habitat for threatened woodland birds and other key species.
2. Riparian corridors and water quality: The initial plantings and extra plantings in 2020 have established well and will contribute to habitat connectivity, creek bank stability and water quality.
3. Demonstration site: This project has protected and enhanced the conservation values of the Wandiyali-Environs Wildlife Sanctuary and surrounding properties, as well as upskilling, engaging and inspiring volunteers and landholders to conduct similar work elsewhere.

6 Issues raised from previous progress reports

Did you receive specific points to address in this report from the technical review of your previous progress report? If so, please complete the table below.

Points to address	Response/action
None identified	Not applicable

7 Other

Is there anything else you would like to raise in this report?

No.

Checklist

<p>Will you be seeking a variation and/or an extension to this project? If yes, please attach Budget Variation form and/or any additional information</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Attached
<p>Project Measures Table Ensure you update your Project Measures Table to show your progress for this stage period and provide it as an attachment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
<p>Communication Ensure you provide copies of media coverage, publications and materials produced and provide as an attachment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Attached
<p>Other attachments Provide any other attachments that are relevant to your project.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Attached
<p>Financial Reports</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached

Progress reports

<p>Ensure you complete the Environmental Trust's Progress financial spreadsheet and provide it as an attachment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
<p>Tax invoice - Include a tax invoice for the next instalment of your grant (plus GST if applicable).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Attached

To be completed for final reports only

<p>Ensure you complete the Environmental Trust's Final financial spreadsheet and provide it as an attachment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
<p>Please ensure that your financial reports are properly certified. Improper certification could delay the acquittal of your grant. Please refer to the Trust's Financial reporting guidelines. I spoke to Karen Wakely who advised me to submit the completed financial statement and forward properly certified version once it is complete.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Certification attached

Unspent funds: Ideally all grant funds should be expended by the time you submit your final report

<p>Are there any unspent grant funds over \$100 in total remaining? Funds will be fully spent once audit is complete. I spoke to Karen Wakely who advised me to submit the completed financial statement and forward properly certified version once it is complete.</p> <p>If yes, please return any unspent funds to the Trust. To return funds you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include a cheque for the amount of unspent grant funds, made payable to the Environmental Trust OR contact your Grants Administrator to arrange payment via EFT or request a Tax Invoice from the Trust 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Attached
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Contents confirmation (to be completed for all reports)

<p>I confirm that the contents of this report, the associated Financial Report, the Project Measures Table and any other attachments are true and accurate.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Contents confirmed
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