

Application ERFI000024

Application Summary

Application ID

ERFI000024

Application Title

ERFI - Central Coast Council

Program Name

Environment Restoration Fund 2019

Organisation

Central Coast Council

Research Organisation

Not Specified

Submitted Date

28/11/2019

Program selection

Are you a trustee on behalf of a trust?

No

Entity Details

Australian Business Number (ABN)

73149644003

Legal name

Central Coast Council

Date of registration of ABN

12/05/2016

GST Registered

Yes

Are you a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)?

No

Are you a not-for-profit?

No

Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Details

ANZSIC Division

O - Public Administration and Safety

ANZSIC Class

7530 - Local Government Administration

Program Selection

Program

Environment Restoration Fund 2019

Program Element

Environment Restoration Fund 2019

Eligibility

Enter eligibility code.

#ERFI2019@

Is your organisation identified in Appendix A of the grant opportunity guidelines and have you been invited to apply for this grant?

Only the organisations identified in Appendix A of the grant opportunity guidelines are eligible to apply

Yes

Can you provide evidence from your board (or chief executive officer, general manager or equivalent if there is no board) that the project is supported, and that you can complete the project and meet the costs of the project not covered by grant funding?

Yes

Is your project consistent with the eligible activities outlined in section 5.1 of the grant opportunity guidelines?**To be eligible your project must:**

- be consistent with the relevant project description provided in Appendix A of the grant opportunity guidelines
- be aligned to one or more of the intended program objectives
- include activities and expenditure consistent with the project description
- support on-ground environmental restoration and protection across one of the three priority areas outlined in section 2 of the grant opportunity guidelines. If your project aligns with the priority 'Clean-up, recovery and recycling of waste', eligible activities can include:
 - activities that reduce the impact of waste and litter, such as litter clean-up events (including marine and coastal debris collection), and litter management technologies
 - activities that encourage re-use and recycling, such as development of educational campaigns, technological applications and establishing online marketplaces.

Yes

Applicant address

Business Street Address49 Mann St
GOSFORD NSW 2250
Australia**Business Postal Address**

PO Box 21
Gosford NSW 2250
Australia

Applicant financials

Latest Financial Year Figures

Has the applicant existed for a complete financial year?

Yes

What was the latest complete financial year?

2018/19

Recent Trading Performance

Sales Revenue (Turnover)

\$637,251,000,000

Export Revenue

\$0

R&D Expenditure

\$0

Taxable Income

\$0

Number of employees (headcount)

2686

Number of independent contractors (headcount)

249

Project information

Project title and description

Project title

Avoca Lagoon Green and Golden Bell Frog Assessment and Habitat Improvement

Provide a brief project description for publication.

Ensure your project description focuses on your project's key activities and outcomes. Explain what it is you are going to do and how it will benefit your organisation.

This project will provide vital information concerning the population dynamics, distribution and habitat preferences of the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog at Avoca Lagoon and the complex hydrological cycle of the key breeding area known as Bareena Lagoon. This information will be used by Central Coast Council to guide habitat restoration works around Avoca Lagoon which will improve the viability of the Green and Golden Bell Frog population and contribute towards the long term goal of improving water quality within the lagoon.

Detailed project description and key activities

Provide a detailed description of your project including the project scope and key activities.

The Green and Golden Bell Frog has faced rapid population declines in Australia with estimates indicating that they now only cover approximately 10% of their former range. One known population of this species is located at Avoca on the NSW Central Coast however little is known of the population dynamics, distribution and habitat use in this area and such information is vital to enable Council to effectively manage the species to ensure long-term viability of the population. Further to this, the hydrological links between the breeding habitat within Bareena Lagoon and the broader waterbody of Avoca Lagoon are poorly understood meaning that decisions concerning the opening of Avoca Lagoon to mitigate low land flooding are not well informed in the context of the frog population.

This project seeks to fill the knowledge gaps that exist in relation to the Green and Golden Bell Frog population at Avoca thereby providing Council with key information to better inform lagoon management actions particularly in relation to habitat restoration and rehabilitation and lagoon opening procedures. Key activities of this project include:

1. Population assessment of the Green and Golden Bell Frog;
2. Detailed investigation into the distribution and habitat use of the species at Avoca;
3. Detailed investigation of the hydrology of known breeding habitat within Bareena Lagoon; and,
4. Targeted habitat restoration and rehabilitation works.

Habitat and rehabilitation works will also assist with the long-term goal of improving the water quality in Avoca Lagoon as foreshore and wetland vegetation is a key element of this.

Project outcomes

Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.

Project outcomes include:

1. Detailed understanding of the population dynamics, distribution and habitat use of the Green and Golden Bell Frog at Avoca;
2. Detailed understanding of the hydrology of Bareena Lagoon;
3. Management recommendations and long-term monitoring strategy of Green and Golden Bell Frog to enable Council to make informed decisions relating to the management of Avoca Lagoon; and,
4. targeted foreshore and habitat restoration and rehabilitation works to improve habitat for Green and Golden Bell Frog and provide improvements for lagoon water quality.

Landholder and other approvals

Will your project require landholder permission, development approval, licences/permits or other approvals?

You must be aware of and ensure you obtain, any necessary statutory approvals. Where statutory approvals are required for your project you must maintain records of the approvals.

Yes

Provide detail about the required permissions, approvals, licences, and/or permits required to undertake the project

You must have, or be able to obtain during the project, all relevant and required permissions, approvals, licences, and/or permits required to undertake the project within the project period. For example, the support of the relevant site owner(s) where works are proposed, approvals for any structures to be erected, and permits related to undertaking burns or threatened species related interventions.

Researchers engaged to undertake investigations into Green and Golden Bell Frog will require relevant research permits and ethics approvals. These will be cited by Council prior to engagement.

On ground works will be guided by an environmental assessment prepared pursuant to Part 5 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

Priority area

Which of the following priorities does your project best align with?

protecting threatened and migratory species and their habitat

Identify any species that are supported by this project

List of species can be found on [The Department of Environment website](#) under an EPBC Act listing or the ecological communities and Threatened Species Strategy.

Green and Golden Bell Frog - *Litoria aurea*

Project activities

Select a project activity:

Protect or enhance the natural environment and or support recovery of native species or communities

Project duration**Estimated project start date**

03/02/2020

Estimated project end date

31/03/2023

Estimated project length (in months)

38

Project milestones**Milestone title**

GGBF Preliminary Population Assessment

Description

A preliminary population assessment of Green and Golden Bell Frog will be undertaken to provide a baseline for future monitoring of the population and to guide detailed research and habitat restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

Estimated start date

10/02/2020

Estimated end date

30/06/2020

Milestone title

Hydrological Assessment - preliminary surveys and development of monitoring program

Description

Physical site analysis will be undertaken including detailed survey and geotechnical investigations. This milestone will also include the compilation of existing hydrological data and analysis of monitoring requirements including required instruments and infrastructure.

Estimated start date

10/02/2020

Estimated end date

30/06/2020

Milestone title

GGBF Population Distribution and Habitat Analysis

Description

Detailed investigation into the population distribution and habitat use of Green and Golden Bell Frog at Avoca. A detailed report will be prepared including recommendations regarding on-going monitoring requirements and habitat restoration and rehabilitation priorities.

Estimated start date

01/07/2020

Estimated end date

31/03/2023

Milestone title

Hydrological Assessment - Data Collection, Monitoring and Analysis

Description

Following on from the preliminary hydrological assessment (milestone 2), this milestone represents a three year data collection and monitoring program designed to improve Council's understanding of the hydrological links between known GGBF breeding habitat in Bareena Lagoon and the broader water body of Avoca Lagoon. This study will culminate in the preparation of a detailed analysis of the hydrology of Bareena Lagoon enabling Council to consider the impacts of lagoon entrance management activities on the Green and Golden Bell Frog population.

Estimated start date

01/07/2020

Estimated end date

31/03/2023

Milestone title

Restoration and Rehabilitation of Habitat

Description

The preliminary GGBF population assessment (milestone 1) will provide guidance on priorities for habitat restoration and rehabilitation works. This milestone represents a three year program of targeted restoration and rehabilitation works designed to improve habitat for GGBF with secondary benefits including improvements to water quality.

Annual reports will be presented to Council detailing progress of works. A final report will be submitted including recommendations for on-going works.

Estimated start date

01/07/2020

Estimated end date

31/03/2023

Project location**Project Site 1**

Avoca Lagoon
Tramway Road Reserve
North Avoca NSW 2260
Australia

Estimated % of project value expected to be undertaken at site

100

Project mapping**Paste your unique mapping tool URL here:**

http://www.environment.gov.au/apps/erin/grant_mapper/grant_mapper.html?formCode=ERF&mapTitle=Environment%20Restoration%20Fund%20Mapping%20Tool&helpDoc=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.business.gov.au/assistance/Environment-Restoration-Fund#key-

Project budget

Project budget summary

Head of Expenditure	Cost Type	Financial Year	Costs
Project expenditure			\$300,000
	Salary (Including Salary on Costs)		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Contractor Costs		\$75,000
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$25,000
		2021/22	\$25,000
		2022/23	\$25,000
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Research costs		\$225,000
		2019/20	\$20,000
		2020/21	\$65,000
		2021/22	\$65,000
		2022/23	\$75,000
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Communication, educational materials and promotional Costs		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Material and Equipment Hire or Purchases		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0

Head of Expenditure	Cost Type	Financial Year	Costs
		2024/25	\$0
	Weed Removal Costs		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Riparian Vegetation Removal Costs		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Mapping and Surveying Costs		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
	Other eligible expenditure		\$0
		2019/20	\$0
		2020/21	\$0
		2021/22	\$0
		2022/23	\$0
		2023/24	\$0
		2024/25	\$0
Total Project Costs (\$AUD and GST exclusive)			\$300,000

Financial Year	Costs
2019/20	\$20,000
2020/21	\$90,000
2021/22	\$90,000
2022/23	\$100,000
2023/24	\$0
2024/25	\$0
Total Project Costs (\$AUD and GST exclusive)	\$300,000

Total Commonwealth Funding Sought (\$AUD and GST exclusive)
\$300,000

Assessment criteria

Assessment criterion 1

Project alignment with program objectives

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- a. the extent that your project will support on-ground environmental restoration and protection projects across one or more of the three priority areas: protecting threatened and migratory species and their habitat; protecting Australia's coasts, oceans and waterways; and clean-up, recovery and recycling of waste.

This project will provide vital information concerning the population dynamics, distribution and habitat preferences of the endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog at Avoca Lagoon and the complex hydrological cycle of the key breeding area known as Bareena Lagoon. This information will be used by Central Coast Council to guide habitat restoration works around Avoca Lagoon which will improve the viability of the Green and Golden Bell Frog population and contribute towards the long-term goal of improving water quality within the lagoon.

This project seeks to fill the knowledge gaps that exist in relation to the Green and Golden Bell Frog population at Avoca thereby providing Council with key information to better inform lagoon management actions particularly in relation to habitat restoration and rehabilitation and lagoon opening procedures. Key activities of this project include:

1. Population assessment of the Green and Golden Bell Frog;
2. Detailed investigation into the distribution and habitat use of Green and Golden Bell Frog at Avoca;
3. Detailed investigation of the hydrology of known breeding habitat within Bareena Lagoon; and,
4. Targeted habitat restoration and rehabilitation works.

Habitat and rehabilitation works will also assist with the long-term goal of improving the water quality in Avoca Lagoon as foreshore and wetland vegetation is a key element of this.

Assessment criterion 2

Your capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- a. your track record in managing similar projects and your access to personnel with the right skills and experience including management and technical staff
- b. your plan to manage the project including scope, implementation methodology, timeframes, budget and project delivery risks
- c. your access, or future access, to any required land, infrastructure, capital equipment, technology, and regulatory or other approvals
- d. your capacity to manage the project sites where on-ground activity has occurred, after the life of this grant.

a. Our multi-disciplinary team are experienced in delivering projects, contracts and on-ground works in a timely, quality and cost effective manner. All budget estimates are based on extensive past experience and a detailed understanding of the research, planning, approvals, and delivery of on-ground works associated with estuary management activities. Council has extensive experience managing bush regeneration (e.g. Council has completed over 50km of streambank rehabilitation in-house).

b. A multi-disciplinary Project Control Group will be established to oversee the project consisting of Council staff from across the Environmental Management Unit. Council will engage a research institution(s) with recognised expertise in Green and Golden Bell Frog ecology and hydrology to deliver the research components subject to Milestones 1, 2, 3 and 4. The engagement(s) will be managed in accordance with Council purchasing policies and procedures and will require regular reporting and face to face meetings with the project control group. External communication with key stakeholders will be facilitated by Council officers via an established group consisting of representatives from relevant state government agencies, community groups and research institutions.

Contract works regarding the restoration and rehabilitation of habitat subject to milestone 5 will be undertaken by a suitably experienced bush regeneration contractor engaged via a competitive process in accordance with Councils purchasing policies and procedures. The contract will involve regular reporting (bi-annual) of bush regeneration activities and regular on-site meetings.

The proposed timeframe and budget are sufficient to implement all the activities identified in this application. The information gathered by this project is vital to the future management of the location which will continue well beyond the life of this grant. Delivery risks are minimal relating mostly to the threat of changes to staffing over the course of the project. This will be managed by ensuring that the project documentation is clear and concise and that the project control group is kept abreast of all activities. This will ensure that any changes to key staff are seamless.

c. Council has care control and management of all land subject to this project. All regulatory approvals for current and future programs will be managed in accordance with existing Council policies and procedures.

Assessment criterion 3

The impact of grant funding on your project

You should demonstrate this by describing:

- a. the likelihood that the project would proceed without the grant and explain how the grant will benefit the size and timing of your project
- b. your justification for the funding amount requested with respect to the scale of the project and intended outcomes.

a. The grant amount drastically exceeds the level of funding that other programs or Council budgets could commit to the project. As such, through this program Council will be able to address the knowledge gaps identified in relation to the Green and Golden Bell Frog population much more concisely enabling a more informed management response moving forward.

b. The Green and Golden Bell Frog has faced rapid population declines in Australia with estimates indicating that they now only cover approximately 10% of their former range. Little is known of the population dynamics, distribution and habitat use of the species in this area and such information is vital to enable Council to effectively manage the population and ensure its long-term viability. Further to this, the hydrological links between the breeding habitat within Bareena Lagoon and the broader waterbody of Avoca Lagoon are poorly understood meaning that decisions concerning the opening of Avoca Lagoon to mitigate low land flooding are not well informed in the context of the frog population. The funding amount requested, the scale of the project and the intended outcomes are commensurate with the magnitude of the problem.

Application finalisation

Conflict of interest

Do you have any perceived or existing conflicts of interest to declare?

Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for further information on your conflict of interest responsibilities.

No

Program feedback

How did you hear about the program?

Direct mail/email

Additional information

Evidence of support from the board, CEO, general manager or equivalent

You must provide evidence from your board (or chief executive officer, general manager or equivalent if there is no board) that the project is supported, and that you can complete the project and meet the costs of the project not covered by grant funding.

CEO_Letter_Avoca.pdf

Supporting documents

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in-line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

Indigenous organisations

Is your organisation Indigenous owned?

An organisation is considered Indigenous owned where at least 51% of the organisation's members or proprietors are Indigenous.

No

Is your organisation Indigenous controlled?

An organisation is considered Indigenous controlled where at least 51% of the organisation's board or management committee is Indigenous.

No

Primary application contact

Title

Mr

Given Name

Warren

Family Name

Brown

Position Title

Senior Estuary Management Officer

Email Address

warren.brown@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Phone Number

02 4304 4568

Mobile Number

0408 420 865

Business postal address of the primary contact

Central Coast Council
Erina Works Depot
Pateman Road
Erina NSW 2250
Australia

Applicant declaration

Application declaration (with working with children) clause

Privacy and confidentiality provisions

I acknowledge that this is an Australian Government program and that the department will use the information I provide in accordance with the following:

- Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement,
- Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines,
- Program Guidelines, and
- applicable Australian laws.

Accordingly, I understand that the department may share my personal information provided in this application within this department and other government agencies:

- a. for purposes directly related to administering the program, including governance, research and the distribution of funds to successful applicants and
- b. to facilitate research, assessment, monitoring and analysis of other programs and activities

unless otherwise prohibited by law.

I understand that where I am successful in obtaining a grant, the financial information that I provide for the purposes of payment will be accessible to departmental staff to enable payments to be made through the department's accounts payable software system.

I understand that information that is deemed 'confidential' in accordance with the Program Guidelines may also be shared for a relevant Commonwealth purpose.

The Department will publish information on individual grants in the public domain, including on the department's website, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Applicant declaration

I declare that I have read and understood the grant opportunity guidelines, including the privacy, confidentiality and disclosure provisions.

I declare that the proposed project outlined in this application and any associated expenditure has been endorsed by the applicant's Board or person with authority to commit the applicant to this project.

I declare that the applicant will comply with, and require that its subcontractors and independent contractors comply with, all applicable laws.

I declare that the information contained in this application together with any statement provided is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, complete and not misleading and that I understand that giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

I acknowledge that I may be requested to provide further clarification or documentation to verify the information supplied in this form and that the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the department) may, during the application process, consult with other government agencies, including state and territory government agencies, about the applicant's claims and may also engage external technical or financial advisors to advise on information provided in the application.

I acknowledge that if the department is satisfied that any statement made in an application is incorrect, incomplete, false or misleading the department may, at its absolute discretion, take appropriate action. I note such action may include excluding an application from further consideration; withdrawing an offer of funding; using the information contained in the application for a fraud investigation that would be consistent with the Australian Government's Investigations Standard and Commonwealth fraud control framework and for management purposes and/or terminating any grant agreement between the Commonwealth and the recipient including recovering funds already paid.

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that I have met relevant state or territory legislation obligations related to working with children, and that any person that has direct, unsupervised contact with children as part of a project under this grant opportunity, has undertaken and passed, a working with children check, if required under relevant state or territory legislation. I am also responsible for assessing the suitability of people I engage in this project to ensure children are kept safe.

I agree to participate in the periodic evaluation of the services undertaken by the department.

I declare that I am authorised to complete this form and acknowledge that by including my name in this application I am deemed to have signed this application.

I approve the information in this application being communicated to the department in electronic form.

By checking this box I agree to all of the above declarations and confirm all of the above statements to be true

Yes

