

To the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment

Re: Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations

In a nutshell, the REO and DGR processes have helped our small organisation to secure long term support from several corporate sponsors, charitable trusts and several private individuals who donate to us each year.

This is the only way we have been able to continue operations at ground level, as our grants from Government usually only allow 15% of the funds for salaries and administration. Our 2 staff members work hard to engage community groups, farmers, schools, universities, bush walkers, church groups, scouts, etc, harnessing the energy of literally thousands of volunteers who want to get their hands dirty with tree planting to help threatened species.

We do not engage in political activity, but focus entirely on practical habitat restoration work. Our supporting bodies are not politically engaged and we are happy to disclose our supporting bodies.

Finally, the attached report on our 2013-2014 activities will give a clear picture of the scale of on-ground works achieved by our 2 paid staff and all the volunteers.

The main benefit of the REO and DGR process is enabling access to other funding bodies. So it really stimulates a huge amount of "value-adding" by other supporting groups.

Ray Thomas,
Project Co-ordinator
Regent Honeyeater Project Inc.

22 April 2015

SCHEDULE 5: Final Reporting Template

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Lurg Hills Regent Honeyeater Project - Ecological restoration on a landscape scale

Regent Honeyeater Project Inc.

Funded by

Australian Government

Organisation Details:

Organisation:	The Regent Honeyeater Project	
Project Contact Officer:	Ray Thomas	
Project Phone Number:	03 5761 1515 or	
Postal Address:	PO Box 124, Benalla, 3672	
Email Address:		
Spatial collection method: (please circle) See Schedule 3 for details	Esri Shapefile	GB CMA Online Mapping System
Spatial collection details:		
Contact name and email address:		
ABN:	29 084 959 796	
ABN registered name:	Regent Honeyeater Project Inc	
Are you registered for GST?	Yes	
Incorporation name:	Regent Honeyeater Project Inc	
Incorporation number:	A0050192Z	
Anticipated start date:	1 July 2013	
Anticipated end date:	30 June 2014	

Project Details:

Project Number:	213065
Title: Lurg Hills:	Regent Honeyeater Project – Ecological restoration on a landscape scale
Total project funding:	\$175,000 (\$50,000 for coordination & \$125,000 for small grants)

Report prepared by:

Ray Thomas
Project Co-ordinator
25 June 2014

Breakdown of funds (GST exclusive)

Description	Proponent Funds (group funds)		Other Contributor Various – see below		Funds Approved 2013 Caring for our Country		Total Budget 2013	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Employment / Project Management / Facilitation	\$ 33,570	\$ 29,420	\$ 2,300 Comm Action Grants \$ 6,000 Exetel Pty Ltd \$ 1,000 CMA Comm Involvt Grant \$30,000 Wettenhall Foundation	\$ 2,300 \$ 10,000 \$ Nil \$30,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 50,000	\$112,870	\$121,720
Office rent & telephone	\$ 4,150	\$ 2,712	\$ 650 Comm Action Grants DEPI, GBCMA, GVEHO, Donations	\$ 10,983	\$ 10,000	Nil	\$ 14,800	\$ 13,695
In-kind/volunteer labour	\$245,375	\$271,265		\$			\$245,375	\$271,265
Volunteer bird surveys & Babbler monitoring		\$ 9,875						\$ 9,875
Total employment Costs (GST exclusive)	\$283,095	\$313,272	\$39,950	\$ 53,283	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$373,045	\$416,555
School bus trips for planting	\$ 1,000		\$ 4,500 Exetel Pty Ltd \$ 1,350 Comm Action Grants	\$ 2,570			\$ 6,850	\$ 2,570
Fencing (70 ha) Actual (95.6ha)	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,796	\$ 7,500 Exetel Pty Ltd \$12,000 Comm Action Grants Other Donations	\$26,619			\$34,500	\$30,415
Revegetation (40 ha) Actual (50.1ha)	\$ 3,000		\$13,000 Exetel Pty Ltd \$ 4,000 Comm Action Grants	\$16,336			\$20,000	\$16,336
Propagation materials & equipment	\$ 1,000		\$ 3,500 Exetel Pty Ltd \$ 500 Comm Action Grants	\$ 3,981			\$ 5,000	\$ 3,981
Catering & accomm for 100's of volunteers on community w/e's	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,399	\$ 4,500 Exetel Pty Ltd \$ 1,350 Comm Action Grants Other Donations	\$ 6,761			\$ 6,850	\$ 8,160
Mistletoe Removal	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,550	\$ 6,000 Exetel Pty Ltd	\$ 7,450			\$12,000	\$12,000
Pest control, woody weeding & ecol thinning		\$ 103	\$ 500 Exetel Pty Ltd \$ 500 Comm Action Grants	\$ 1,144			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,247
Total Operating Costs (GST exclusive)	\$27,000	\$ 9,848	\$59,200	\$64,861	Nil	Nil	\$86,200	\$74,709
Total Budget 2013 (GST exclusive)	\$310,095	\$323,120	\$99,150	\$118,144	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$459,245	\$491,264

Budget variations eg Reduced bus fares for school planting days, because our new company was much cheaper.

Reduced propagation & reveg costs, as we had potting mix & tree guards in stock from previous year. Also reduced site-clearing machinery costs.

Project Delivery

On-ground outputs:

a. Final outputs delivered (please note requirement below to provide spatial information).

New Standard Output List	Goulburn Broken CMA Output Description (from EOI)	2013-14 Target	2013-14 Achieved	Output type (select one from list)	Activity type (select one from list)	Spatial Object (point/line / polygon)	Spatial Data Collection Method	Expected management outcome (select one)	Specific attributes 1 (if applicable)	Spatial data recorded and provided (Y/N)
Grazing regime (ha)	Fence terrestrial remnant vegetation (ha)	70ha	61.5ha 34.1ha	Exclusion Restricted	Removed Controlled	Polygon	Record area where stock have been excluded ie. area protected/ managed	Species control	Record the previous type: continuous grazing	Yes
Vegetation (ha)	Revegetation - natives (ha)	40ha	36.45ha planting 13.95ha seeding	Indigenous	Established Maintained Modified	Polygon	Record area where vegetation was established or maintained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Extreme event preparedness ●Soil stability ●Veg structure and diversity ●Veg extent 	Record the specific activity, eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●direct seeding ●plant guarding ●ripping ●slashing ●planting ●wood placement 	Yes

Output Description	Financial Year 2013/14	
	Target	Achieved
Pre and post activity survey of event participants (template to be provided by GB CMA)		
Contact details of event/participants activity (eg landholders undertaking reveg) to enable the CMA to contact participants over the next 5 years to measure the impact of funded activities		
Field Days	4	6 community nest box monitoring days 10 community planting days 15 Propagation days with schools 17 Planting days with schools 6 project tours for Universities, Landcare groups, Visiting schools 12 Rabbit control sites, multiple visits, combination of methods
Bird Surveys	1	2 days bird search in 155 sites across the Lurg Hills 2 weeks survey of Grey-crowned Babbler pop'n across Lurg

2.3 Acknowledgement of Fund Source and Recording information

(a) Spatial Reporting. The on ground outputs reported above are spatially recorded, reported & provided by:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| • Online GB CMA mapping system | Yes | See attached digital maps |
| • ESRI File | Yes | See attached digital maps |

(b) Have you acknowledged the Fund source (eg State Government, CfoC, etc)? Yes

Comments:

(a) Overall comments on project progress and delivery:

Our work has made genuine progress on all the “Priority Directions” that were outlined in our initial EOI. We continue to secure sites that add significant size, quality & connectivity to the existing matrix of habitat. We buffer old growth remnants to improve their health and ensure longevity. Volunteer groups continue to grow, so that large on-ground works are actually achievable. We are expanding our operations towards Winton Wetlands to create a major Bio Link to the Northern Plains. This has enormous significance for broadening gene pools of threatened species such as Babblers and Squirrels.

(b) Key achievements:

29,590 seedlings planted on 15 sites, with a total habitat area of 95.6ha restored. Major seed-collection work has captured the genetics of all the known pop’ns of many declining plant species. Combining these genes in our planting sites has important value for the long-term resilience of local ecosystems. Populations of Grey-crowned Babblers and Squirrel Gliders are monitored closely as indicators of habitat gains. These species are secure, with much higher numbers than 10 years ago. Brush-tailed Phascogale sightings continue to expand across the district because of our corridors & nest boxes.

(c) Key learnings:

Wildlife use our corridors & stepping stone sites to access more productive sites that can support breeding. Propagation of dry hill-country Acacias & Peas was greatly improved with tight control of fertilizer & watering. As a result, we are confident to propagate these species by the 1000’s to create major seed production orchards. These will produce the broadest gene pools available for scores of our local understorey species. In our older planting sites, we see “natural selection” of different tree species in different parts of the terrain.

(d) Issues/risks identified that impacted on delivery:

With the sale of several properties, we need to look for ways to establish a good connection with new owners. At times kangaroo reduction was not followed through, so there were serious plant losses on 1 site.

(e) Improvement – What would you do differently? What operations/processes were improved?

To deal with these situations, we’ve set up a trial of planting “mini plug” seedlings to escape browsing pressure. At only 50mm tall, the seedlings mimic natural regeneration, so have a good chance of “skipping under the radar”. Thorough work on rabbit poisoning and warren ripping enabled planting 1 huge site without tree guards. This was an enormous saving of time and money. Earlier spraying of rip lines makes the digging much easier during planting season. Spraying of warm-season grasses such as Couch and Paspalum while they are still active assists this as well.

Attachments:

- List of sites with amounts of planting, direct seeding, fencing, and other actions
- Maps of sites
- “Before and after” photos of sites
- Photos of various community volunteer activities
- Babbler population gains over recent years
- List of participating landholders for the year

CUMULATIVE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

You may be interested to see some of the bigger picture of our work across the entire Lurg Hills district over the past 20years.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals
no of sites fenced	25	23	24	39	22	23	16	17	20	30	16	17	23	15	16	20	25	16	25	416
km of fencing	18	17.5	13	21	13.3	11.5	12.9	6.8	11.6	19.5	8.5	16.9	16.1	13.5	9.3	14.0	15.2	9.5	14.55	263.05
ha of habitat protected	83	93.5	93	108	80	70	68.2	56.1	72.1	95.0	34.7	56.13	103	106.9	110.5	70.6	77.53	95.63	68.84	1542.7
no of sites planted	17	13	46	21	33	39	24	35	40	45	23	28	29	21	24	25	27	15	25	530
seedlings planted	15,000	22,000	28,000	19,000	28,000	35,000	26,775	31,575	33,520	45,400	28,230	38,019	34,585	35,621	35,700	32,500	36,347	29,590	31,550	586410
seedlings propagated	8,500	21,000	21,000	24,000	20,000	25,000	31,550	28,350	40,000	45,000	47,300	45,000	39,760	45,020	45,000	38,683	34,413	27,688	44,228	595692
no of direct seeding sites	0	0	0	1	2	10	0	2	1	2	0	0	9	9	10	4	20	8	21	99
nest boxes placed	0	17	21	31	69	19	11	23	0	21	0	26	178	33	0	7	2	2	5	427
landholders involved	24	26	30	27	22	23	11	32	26	33	18	21	24	28	20	24	24	18	21	154
schools involved	11	10	11	12	17	16	16	18	22	23	23	25	20	23	20	19	20	17	17	41
students involved	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	1,885	2,000	1,350	2,058	2,100	2,233	1,802	1,450	1,567	22,710
community volunteers	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	440	460	550	674	560	588	644	750	550	9,616
total no of people	410	750	700	750	750	900	1,590	1,256	1,630	1,930	2,343	2,481	1,924	2,760	2,680	2,845	2,470	2,200	2,117	32,326