

2011 - 12 Investment Project

RB12-00025-1



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

This is a record of your completed regional base level funding 2011-12 Caring for our Country project. This record was generated on 17/05/2011.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Project title

Please provide a title which clearly indicates what your project will achieve

Supporting Partnerships in NRM in the SA Arid Lands

Project Summary

Please provide a short description of your project. This summary will be used to communicate about your project e.g. in media announcements and in the Funding Agreement. The information should be consistent with what you give later in the application.

This program will deliver biodiversity habitat enhancement and improved land management practises through on-ground works which will be supported by partnerships and delivery within communities and by Aboriginal land managers.

The condition of approximately 150ha of native habitat will be managed to provide improved habitat for EPBC species; 200ha of native grasslands will be protected through the removal of woody weeds and 10 000ha will benefit from improved practices.

Proposed duration

Proposed start date (mm/yyyy)

07/2011

Proposed completion date (mm/yyyy)

06/2013

State:

South Australia

NRM Region:

South Australian Arid Lands

Regional Body:

South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board

Are you authorised to act on behalf of the selected regional body?

Yes

If dividing your base-level project into separate projects, describe how the projects are linked or integrated.

N/A

Please identify any other projects that are linked to this one, and any projects (for example, new Caring for our Country, existing or new State/Territory projects) that you are aware of that may have synergies with this one.

This project is complementary to a number of existing projects in the region including:

Base funded projects:

*Valuing People and Building Capacity for Managing Functioning Ecosystems in the Arid Lands

*Improving NRM in the Arid Lands of SA

*Combining Cultural and Ecological Knowledge to Develop a Regional Cultural and Ecological Land Management Strategy

This project also links to the Regional Landcare Facilitator Project in the SA Arid Lands and complements currently active smaller projects funded under the State NRM Program.

All projects contribute to the achievement of resource condition targets identified in the SAAL Regional NRM Plan.

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SECTION : APPLICANT DETAILS

The *Applicant Details* are required for the legal entity with whom the Australian Government will form a contract, if this project is successful.

Organisation details

Organisation Name
Organisation/Company ABN
Is your organisation registered for GST?

Entity type

Applicant contact information – primary contact person

The primary contact person should be a person in the lead organisation who is readily contactable in April-July 2011 during the project assessment period and will be involved in the day-to-day management of the project.

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	<input type="text" value="Ms"/>	<input type="text" value="Deb"/>	<input type="text" value="Agnew"/>
Position in organisation	<input type="text" value="I/Deputy Regional Manager NRM"/>		
Business phone number	<input type="text" value="0886485977"/>		
After hours phone number	<input type="text"/>		
Fax	<input type="text"/>		
Mobile	<input type="text" value="0419866726"/>		
PO Box/Street Address	<input type="text" value="PO Box 2227"/>		
Town/Suburb	<input type="text" value="Port Augusta"/>		
State	<input type="text" value="South Australia"/>	Postcode	<input type="text" value="5700"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="deb.agnew@saalnm.sa.gov.au"/>		

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Authorised person – person who will sign the contract

This is the person with power to bind the organisation in a contract for the value of this project.

Is the authorised person the same as the proponent organisation contact person (details in above

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	<input type="text" value="Mr"/>	<input type="text" value="Geoff"/>	<input type="text" value="Axford"/>
Position in organisation	<input type="text" value="Regional Manager"/>		
Business phone number	<input type="text" value="0886485309"/>		
After hours phone number	<input type="text" value="0427604079"/>		
Fax	<input type="text"/>		
Mobile	<input type="text" value="0427604079"/>		
PO Box/Street Address	<input type="text" value="PO Box 2227"/>		
Town/Suburb	<input type="text" value="Port Augusta"/>		
State	<input type="text" value="South Australia"/>	Postcode	<input type="text" value="5700"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="geoff.axford@sa.gov.au"/>		

Applicant contact information – secondary contact person

The secondary contact person should be a person who is readily contactable in April-July 2011 and will only be contacted where the primary contact person is unavailable.

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	<input type="text" value="Ms"/>	<input type="text" value="Kate"/>	<input type="text" value="Forrest"/>
Position in organisation	<input type="text" value="A/Community Engagement Manager"/>		
Business phone number	<input type="text" value="0886485977"/>		
After hours phone number	<input type="text"/>		
Fax	<input type="text"/>		
Mobile	<input type="text"/>		
Email	<input type="text" value="kate.forrest@saalnm.sa.gov.au"/>		

SECTION : TARGETS

Which Caring for our Country target(s) does your project address?

(Your project will be assessed against how well your project addresses these target/s .)

Community Skills, Knowledge and Engagement

- Indigenous participation

Biodiversity and Natural Icons

- Increasing native habitat

Sustainable Farm Practices

- Improving management practices

What part of the selected target/s will your project meet?

Indigenous participation

- Describe how you will be working with or engaging Indigenous Australians to deliver your project. **Indigenous participation is a high priority of the SAAL NRM region. Recently two Aboriginal Engagement officers have been employed; one male and one female. These officers have successfully supported one another, and multiple small Aboriginal groups and communities, to improve the involvement of Aboriginal people in NRM.**

It is a very high priority to continue the employment of these two staff through funding provided by this project that will build on funds already available through the Landcare facilitator project.

These staff will be able to build on, and expand existing partnerships with Aboriginal communities. They will focus on two of these partnerships in particular. This will ensure the Aboriginal participation program is ongoing and increasing in breadth, whilst also accomodating recently established expectations for ongoing support.

Organisations you will be working with and the contact details

Organisation	Contact person	Contact phone
Adnymathanha Traditional Land Association	Mr Vince Coulthard	0886422422
Umoona Community Council	Mr George Cooley	0886725751

- Are you receiving funding through Working on Country? **No**

Increasing native habitat

- Describe briefly how your project will reduce critical threats to biodiversity? **Targeting on-ground works that directly reduce the critical threats to biodiversity, including:**
 - * **Fencing areas of native vegetation to promote natural regeneration of endemic species and reducing adverse impacts of pest animals grazing on established and emerging species**
 - * **Weed control, plant propagation and revegetation to increase the habitat for these EPBC species: Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby, Bronzback legless lizard**
 - * **Pest weed control activities in areas of high value habitat to enable natural regeneration of endemic species and an increase in species richness**

The development of partnerships with Indigenous Communities and extension of traditional ecological knowledge of the species and habitat will be a large component of this program. This will assist in determining the best locations for activities to occur. An emphasis will be placed on increasing the knowledge and skills of the communtiy in protecting and enhancing biodiversity by involving individuals, community groups and Aboriginal people in on-ground activities.

Promotion of activities will occur through the production of the SAAL NRM newsletter Across the Outback and the SAAL NRM Aboriginal Newsletter

- Area of native habitat and vegetation that will be managed to reduce critical threats to biodiversity **150** hectares
- Does this area contain suitable habitat for any nationally threatened (EPBC listed) species? **Yes**

Please specify **Bronzeback legless lizard, Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby**

- Does this area managed contain any nationally endangered ecological communities? **No**
- South Australia **Yes**
- Will your project address change at a landscape scale and enhance the condition or connectivity of habitats and landscapes? **No**

Improving management practices

- Native grasslands and vegetation in northern and remote Australia **Yes**

What is the actual number of the following types of farmers/Indigenous land managers who will improve their practices and the actual area over which management practices will be improved?

Grazing farmers (including dairy farmers) **Yes**

Number **3**

Over **200** hectares

What is the number of the following types of farmers/Indigenous land managers who will be influenced by the project to improve their practices and the area influenced over which management practices will be improved?

Grazing farmers (including dairy farmers) **Yes**

Number **8**

Over **10000** hectares

Please specify the natural resource condition issue(s) that your project addresses

Reducing the risk of soil loss through wind and water erosion **Yes**

Ground cover management practice(s) to reduce wind and water erosion and increase carbon content of soils:

Other practices **Yes**

Please specify **Improving groundcover and species richness by undertaking invasive woody weed (Mimosa bush) control in Algebuckinna catchment**

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SECTION : PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Activities proposed

Please, clearly identify what activities this project will carry out.

Include the proportion of the budget for each of the following activities (if applicable).

Activities proposed that will contribute to Caring for our Country targets are:

* Increasing native habitat (55%) through Indigenous Participation

Combining scientific and Indigenous ecological knowledge to identify and protect 40 Ha of priority habitat for protection and replenishment of the following EPBC species - Yellow Footed Rock Wallaby (ATLA) and Bronzeback Legless Lizard (Umoona).

Involve at least 2 Indigenous Communities (land managers) and 20 people in 150 Ha of habitat restoration works.

Threats to the priority habitat identified in conjunction with the land managers and a strategy developed for activities to address these for the next 2 years. The following activities would be expected:

Control of pest weed infestations in 150 Ha to promote natural regeneration of endemic species together with 20 Ha of revegetation

Improvement of community in on-ground biodiversity activities by participation in NRM training workshops, field days, community events (eg Threatened Species Day, World Wetland Day) and information sessions.

FOR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES REFER ATTACHMENT 1.

In the event that seasonal circumstances or community agendas change significantly our risk management will be to consult through relationships with existing Indigenous communities for new priorities which will as far as possible meet Australian Government targets and the Regional NRM Plan targets.

* Improving management practices (45%) Native Grasslands and Vegetation in northern and remote Australia priority.

3 Land managers will undertake invasive woody weed (Mimosa bush) control over 200 Ha in the Peake Creek (Algebuckinna) catchment. The following activities would be expected:

Land management workshop with land managers in the Marla/Oodnadatta district

Catchment scale survey, extent of weed invasion (due to weather conditions) with land holders

Strategic planning and evaluation and strategic woody weed control with land managers over 2 years

Examine changes of practices to prevent weed reinvasion/expansion in the future

Undertake weed control measures

It is expected that a further 8 land managers will be influenced to improve their practices over a further 10000 Ha.

FOR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES REFER ATTACHMENT 1.

In the event that seasonal circumstances or the Marla/Oodnadatta community agenda changes significantly our risk management will be to consult this community and if necessary the remaining 4 district groups of the SAAL NRM Board for new priorities which will as far as possible meet Australian Government targets and the Regional NRM Plan targets.

Explain why you have selected these activities and how they will lead to improvements in terms of each selected target.

Please address each target and support claims that the activities and the practices are relevant, the best available or technically feasible in your area.

The Board has a regional NRM Plan which defines the natural resources and identifies management action targets (MAT's) to be undertaken to improve the condition of resources in the region. The MAT's were prioritised by the Board and identify the activities that needed to be undertaken to address these priority MAT's.

The proposed activities to address the Indigenous Participation, Increasing Native Habitat and Improving Management Practices targets in the 2011 Caring for our Country Business Plan are relevant and feasible to achieve the anticipated NRM outcomes.

The SAAL Board staff and land managers in the region have extensive experience in working together to develop and deliver projects in the SAAL region. Discussions have been held about meeting Caring for our Country targets with the land managers in identifying priorities in the region.

The activities are based on methods which have been found to be effective through past programs run in

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the SAAL region and have been truthed against the latest technical advice.

Devolved grants

If you are seeking funding for a devolved grants component please outline

- the type of devolved grants, market based instrument or economic incentive that will be used to deliver the Caring for our Country target/s
- the target audience and likely degree of adoption
- the size of the grants/incentives for groups
- the expected administration costs for your organisation to run these grants
- how much funding will be delivered to on-ground activities

Devolved grants and/or a market based instrument program will be used to address the Increasing Native Habitat and Improving Management Practices Caring for our Country targets.

The target audience is landholders and Indigenous community groups. It is anticipated that, based on the past experience of the Board in implementing the previous devolved grant programs, the level of interest will be high and that assistance through funding is a great catalyst to getting action on-ground.

The amount of funding made available to individual landholders and community groups will vary according to the nature of the funding program, with single payments expected to range from \$1000 up to about \$20 000. This money would be used to fund fencing materials, weed control measures, access to training, revegetation, in a cost sharing arrangement.

The administration costs to run these funding programs are covered through the program management component.

Project manager or facilitator services

If your project involves the use of a project manager(s) or facilitator(s) please outline:

- What activities they will undertake
- What amount of funding will be required to cover their costs

The Board has a range of skilled and highly qualified staff that have demonstrated abilities to plan, implement and report on projects. The Community Engagement Program Manager will oversee the delivery of the this project with the assistance of the Indigenous Engagement Officers (1.4FTE), the Natural Resources Management Officers (0.8FTE) and the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (0.2FTE) with activities including:

- * rigorous financial management (finances will be subject to an annual audit by the South Australian Auditor General)
- * contract management - in cases where the SAAL NRM Board subcontracts components of the program, there will be rigorous contracts established with the respective delivery organisations
- * meeting both the the Australian Government reporting requirements and those of the Board
- * liaising with the Australian Government - development of milestones and MERI plan, program variations, auditing, monitoring and reporting
- * developing and overseeing the implementation of a program MERI plan
- * co-ordinating monitoring and evaluation activities for the NRM program
- * managing the MERI reporting for the NRM program.

The amount of funding required over the two years is \$484 000

How many project managers or facilitators will be directly employed in a full time equivalent (FTE) position under your project?

2.4000

Indigenous Engagement and Participation

How will Indigenous Australians be involved in your project? How did you explore opportunities to engage Indigenous Australians?

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Indigenous involvement, knowledge and participation are key components of the program to improve native habitat. The Indigenous land managers will work with SAAL technical staff to develop projects to most effectively improve habitat for the target species. The Indigenous communities will be involved in all stages of the project to protect and improve native habitat on the land they are responsible for. Indigenous people will be trained and undertake work wherever possible.

The opportunities for these projects have been explored with the Indigenous land owners through interaction between SAAL NRM Board staff and community leaders. The project complements projects already being undertaken and meets the goals of the SAAL Board and the communities.

How many Indigenous Australians will be directly employed in a full time equivalent (FTE) position under your project?

0.4000

How will you engage other community members in your project?

Please outline

- the engagement activities planned
- the scale of this involvement
- the potential to raise community awareness and enhance skills

The level of community engagement to be undertaken is based on previous experiences by the SAAL NRM Board to maximise the potential to raise community awareness and enhance their NRM skills. The most effective method is to involve the community groups and organisations in partnerships which deliver learning and on-ground works opportunities.

The SAAL Board also involves itself in a number of activities across the region (Field Days, Community Events and NRM Training Workshops) to promote NRM activities. The SAAL Board also delivers the successful and widely read Across the Outback newsletter.

How many community groups will you engage in you project?

3

Does your project include activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on any matters of national environmental significance?

No

Risk Management

Please define the major risks associated with this project and what management actions you will put in place to minimise or avoid these risks

What are the risks?	Impact of the risk	Likelihood of it occurring	Overall risk	Mitigation strategy
Difficulty accessing remote sites	Moderate	Possible	Medium	Mitigated by involvement of local people and inclusion of key stakeholders. Where access to remote sites is not achievable within the resources of the project, alternative sites will be selected from a wider area.
Insufficient landholder participation	Moderate	Possible	Medium	Mitigated by project managers providing adequate time during first part of project to ensure participant concerns are addressed and partnerships are developed.

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Seasonal conditions	Major	Possible	High	By implementing the project over a 2 year timeframe flexibility in delivery of on-ground work will be possible.
Incorrect methodology used resulting in poor outcomes	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	By including a partnership development component into projects prior to delivery of works, best practice and landholder perspectives can be thoroughly scoped. These steps will reduce the risk of incorrect methodology to minimal.
Project delivery method is not matched properly to activities needed	Moderate	Possible	Medium	A MERI strategy will be an integral part of project delivery. The ongoing program logic approach will enable review of elements of the project to identify problems early and make improvements as necessary to adapt to changing circumstances.
Challenges with community expectations	Moderate	Possible	Medium	In the event that the communities expectations change the communities will be re-engaged with discussion about priorities and alternative activities identified
Timeliness of Indigenous project delivery	Major	Possible	High	This project will employ 1.4FTE Aboriginal engagement officers specifically to work with the communities to provide an additional level of support and ongoing encouragement

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SECTION : BUDGET

Budget for project

Caring for our Country target	Financial year	Funding sought (GST exclusive)
Increasing native habitat	2011-12	\$ 227,000.00
	2012-13	\$ 227,000.00
	Subtotal:	\$ 454,000.00
Improving management practices	2011-12	\$ 180,000.00
	2012-13	\$ 180,000.00
	Subtotal:	\$ 360,000.00
Total:		\$ 814,000.00
Of this what funding is allocated to MERI planning and implementation		\$ 80,000.00

Other source/s of cash funding

Please indicate other cash funding which is necessary for the completion of your project.

Organisation	Contact person	Phone	Security of funds	Amount (GST)
Total				

Total project budget

Caring for our Country funding (GST excl)	Other funding (GST excl)	Total Amount (GST excl)
\$ 814,000.00		\$ 814,000.00

Overview information for project

Project ID	Project Title	Budget
RB12-00025-1	Supporting Partnerships in NRM in the SA Arid Lands	\$ 814,000.00
Total		\$ 814,000.00

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SECTION : DECLARATIONS

Proponents should note that, by completing and submitting this project, they agree to the following statements.

I certify that:

- to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this project is complete and correct and no information is false or misleading. I understand that it is an offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* to provide false or misleading information
- I understand that the Australian Government is under no obligation to provide funding for this project
- I understand that the Australian Government assumes no responsibility for any investment in activities relating to this project that are made before the formation of a contract with the
- I/the organisation I represent supports this project and, if successful, agrees to enter into a contract with the Australian Government to deliver the project and administer the project's
- I have the agreement of all partners to the contents of this project
- I will spend the funding and implement the project in the ways described in the project, unless otherwise agreed by all parties
- the project has not already received funding in part or in full from any other funding source, except as identified in this project
- I/the organisation I represent understand that any payments made by the Australian Government in relation to this project are subject to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Act 1999*
- I consent, on behalf of all parties, to this project being referred to third parties for assessment purposes
- I understand that the Australian Government may undertake external assessments or feasibility studies in relation to this project
- I understand that the Australian Government may undertake to negotiate components of this project to ensure that the most appropriate package for investment and delivery of Caring for our Country targets is in place
- I consent to publication of the above information by the Australian Government if I am awarded funding under this grants program
- I agree that I accept full responsibility to ensure that all of the necessary planning, regulatory and other approvals, permits and permissions are obtained before commencing this project
- to the best of my knowledge, there are no real or likely to be perceived conflicts of interest contained in or associated with this project

The Australian Government thanks you for your interest in Caring for our Country and for the time and effort you have made in preparing this project.