

ITEM 13

TENDER T1000037 - PANEL FOR NATURAL AREAS RESTORATION AND BUSH FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION WORKS

This report recommends the engagement of a panel of contractors to undertake Natural Area Restoration and Bush Fire Management works when required by Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Council currently has active restoration, maintenance and bushfire reduction works being undertaken across 254 sites across the Local Government Area. Council has successfully restored and maintained natural areas, watercourses, and met its statutory obligations for bushfire hazard reduction through a service delivery model including volunteers, and the use of specialist land management contractors over many years.

Council's current Panel for provision of these services expires on 18 July 2022 and this report recommends appointing a new panel for an initial period of three years with a maximum term of five years.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 In accordance with Section 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, Council accept the tender submitted by the following providers for Natural Area Restoration and Bush Fire Hazard Reduction, for the tendered rates as set out in each tenderers' Form of Tender, excluding GST:
 - Adeco Environmental
 - Bowantz Bushfire & Environmental Pty Ltd
 - Commelina Bushworks
 - Ecohort Pty Ltd
 - Good Bush Pty Ltd
 - Hills Bushcare and Bunya Native Nursery
 - Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council
 - Midges Bushland Restoration Pty Ltd
 - Southern Habitat
 - Summit Open Space Services
 - Toolijooa Environmental Restoration
- 2 The term of the contract be for an initial period of three years to 30 June 2025 with two options to extend for a further one-year period each (3+1+1), with such options to extend exercisable at the sole discretion of Council.
- 3 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to finalise and execute the contract and any other documentation required to give effect to this resolution.
- 4 Council grant authority for the use of the Common Seal of Council on the contract and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Paul Tracey, Manager Open Space + Environmental Services

Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works - Connectivity Assets + Liveable City

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

Council uses contractors to provide Natural Area Restoration and Bushfire Management services for a diverse range of projects within the Wollongong LGA. Projects include:

- bush regeneration to protect habitats for local endangered species and regenerate endangered ecological communities.
- riparian restoration to improve urban biodiversity corridors, water quality and storm water conveyance.
- environmental program supervision of volunteer groups participating in the Bushcare, Fiready and Dunecare programs.
- bushfire hazard reduction works to minimise the risk to property and public assets.

Engaging a panel of contractors for the provision of these services will ensure contractors with appropriate experience levels and project personnel can be engaged to complete this diverse range of projects. The panel, when formed, will competitively quote for individual project works to ensure adequate probity, as well as reducing the procurement requirements over the life of the panel if they maintain quality of work. It is envisaged that the panel will increase the effectiveness of the Council funds invested and improve the ecological integrity, visual amenity, and asset performance within Council's Natural Areas.

Tenders were invited to establish a panel of contractors with the appropriate experience, capacity, resources, and skills to undertake natural area restoration works, bushfire management works when required by Council in accordance with Council's scheduled and unscheduled works programs.

It is anticipated that the 2022/2023 Financial year operational expenditure for these types of works will be in the order of \$2.32M.

Tenders were invited for this project by the open tender method with a close of tenders of 10.00 am on Wednesday, 18 May 2022.

Thirteen tenders were received by the close of tenders and all tenders have been scrutinised and assessed by a Tender Evaluation Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Open Space + Environmental Services, City Strategy and Governance + Customer Service Divisions.

The Tender Evaluation Panel assessed all tenders in accordance with the following assessment criteria and weightings as set out in the formal tender documents:

Mandatory Criteria

- 1 Satisfactory references from referees for previous projects of similar size and scope
- 2 Must provide evidence of a Workplace Health & Safety Management System or Plan

Assessable Criteria

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Cost to Council, submitted as a schedule of rates | 35% |
| 2 | Experience and satisfactory performance in provision of works of similar size, scope and risk profile | 30% |
| 3 | Staff qualifications and experience | 15% |
| 4 | Demonstrated strengthening of local economic capacity | 10% |
| 5 | Workplace health and safety management system & Environmental management policies and procedures | 5% |
| 6 | Demonstrated Social Value and/or Social Procurement initiatives | 5% |

The mandatory assessment criteria have been met by the recommended tenderers. The Tender Assessment Panel utilised a weighted scoring method for the assessment of tenders which allocates a numerical score out of 5 in relation to the level of compliance offered by the tenders to each of the assessment criteria as specified in the tender documentation. The method then takes into account the pre-determined weightings for each of the assessment criteria which provides for a total score out of 5 to be calculated for each tender. Table 1 summarises the results of the tender assessment and the ranking of tenders.

TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF TENDER ASSESSMENT

Name of Tenderer	Ranking
Toolijooa Environmental Restoration	1
Ecohort Pty Ltd	2
Adeco Environmental	3
Midges Bushland Restoration Pty Ltd	4
Commelina Bushworks	5
Southern Habitat	6
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	7
Good Bush Pty Ltd	8
Hills Bushcare and Bunya Native Nursery	9
Summit Open Space Services	10
Bowantz Bushfire & Environmental Pty Ltd	11
City Coast Services Pty Ltd	12
Dragonfly Environmental Pty Ltd	NC

PROPOSAL

Council should authorise the establishment of the panel comprising the eleven highest ranked tenderers to carry out the works in accordance with the specifications developed for the panel.

The recommended tenderers have satisfied the Tender Assessment Panel that they are capable of undertaking the works to Council's standards.

Referees nominated by the recommended tenderers have been contacted by the Tender Assessment Panel where required and expressed satisfaction with the standard of work and methods of operation undertaken on their behalf.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 1 Members of the Tender Assessment Panel
- 2 Nominated Referees

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal 1 We value and protect our Environment.

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2022	Operational Plan 2021-22
Strategy	4 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
1.1.1 The community is actively involved in the expansion and improvement of our green corridors and other natural areas connecting the escarpment to the sea	1.1.1.1 Implement programs and events which facilitate community participation to improve natural areas	Coordinate Council's environmental programs and events including: Bushcare, FiReady, Dunecare and Greenplan
		Provide opportunities to work with volunteers, community groups and government to actively participate in urban greening
	1.1.1.2 Projects and programs that achieve enhancement of the natural environment and escarpment are developed and implemented	Continue natural area restoration works at priority sites
		Implement priority actions from the Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy
1.1.2 Manage and effectively improve the cleanliness, health and biodiversity of our creeks, lakes, waterways and oceans	1.1.2.1 Protect and conserve the health and biodiversity of our waterways and coast	Implement priority actions from the Illawarra Escarpment Strategic Management Plan
		Support the Illawarra District Weeds Authority to fulfil and prioritise weed control obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2015
1.1.3 The potential impacts of natural disasters such as those related to flood and landslips are managed and risks are reduced to protect life, property and the environment.	1.1.3.1 Manage vegetation to reduce bushfire risk in Asset Protection Zones on natural areas under Council's care and control	Implement priority actions of the certified Coastal Management Program for Lake Illawarra
	1.1.3.2 Establish effective urban stormwater floodplain management programs	Implement annual bushfire hazard reduction works program for Asset Protection Zones on Council managed land
		Review and implement key priorities from the Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk in accepting the recommendation of this report is considered low on the basis that the tender process has fully complied with Council's Procurement Policies and Procedures and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The risk of the project works is considered moderate based upon Council's risk assessment matrix and appropriate risk management strategies will be implemented.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The outcomes of establishing this Panel aim to achieve efficiency and cost savings through the procurement process and the reliability of engaging qualified, specialised and experienced contractors that will provide high quality results on-ground.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that the works undertaken under this panel contract be funded from the Operational budget cost centres: Natural Areas Management, Water Quality Management, and Bushfire Management as identified in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

CONCLUSION

The following organisations provided acceptable tenders for this work and Council should endorse the recommendations of this report; Adeco Environmental, Bowantz Bushfire & Environmental Pty Ltd, Commelina Bushworks, Ecohort Pty Ltd, Good Bush Pty Ltd, Hills Bushcare and Bunya Native Nursery, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Midges Bushland Restoration Pty Ltd, Southern Habitat, Summit Open Space Services, and Toolijooa Environmental Restoration.