

ITEM 12 TENDER T17/10 - NATURAL AREA RESTORATION AND BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT

This report recommends the engagement of a panel of contractors to undertake Natural Area Restoration Works 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 2005.

The term of Council's current panel of contractors has expired and tenders were required to be invited with a view to compiling a fresh panel of contractors for a period of three years with an option, exercisable by Council, to extend the term of the panel contracts for an additional period up to two years.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 In accordance with clause 178(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Council accept the tenders of Ecohort Pty Ltd, Good Bush Pty Ltd, Southern Habitat (NSW) Pty Ltd, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Midges Bushland Restoration, Toolijooa Pty Ltd, Illawarra Bushland Restoration, Commelina Bushworks, Bowantz Bushfire and Environmental Pty Ltd, for the amounts tendered in the respective Forms of Tender.
- 2 Council delegate to the General Manager the authority to finalise and execute the panel contracts and any other documentation required to give effect to this resolution.
- 3 Council grant authority for the use of the Common Seal of Council on the panel contracts and any other documentation, should it be required, to give effect to this resolution.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Vanni De Luca, Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning (Acting)
Authorised by: Andrew Carfield, Director Planning and Environment - Future City and Neighbourhoods

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; and 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 required to be invited for Council to engage a Panel of Contractors with appropriate experience, capacity, resources and skills to undertake natural area restoration works and bush fire management works when required by Council in accordance with Council's scheduled and unscheduled works programs for these types of works.

It is anticipated that for the 2017/2018 Financial Year, Council's operational expenditure for these types of works will be in the order of \$1.8 million.

Open tenders were invited with a close of tenders of 10.00 am on 23 May 2017.

Twelve tenders were received by the close of tenders and all tenders have been scrutinised and assessed by a Tender Assessment Panel constituted in accordance with Council's Procurement Policies

and Procedures and comprising representatives of the Environment Strategy Planning, Infrastructure Strategy + Planning and Corporate and Community Services Divisions.

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

- 1 Schedule of rates – 35%
- 2 Demonstrated Experience & Satisfactory Performance in undertaking projects of a similar size – 30%
- 3 Demonstrated Strengthening of Local Economic Capacity – 5%
- 4 Proposed Project Personnel and Relevant Experience – 15%
- 5 Demonstrated WHS Management System – 5%
- 6 Demonstrated Environmental Management Systems – 5 %
- 7 Social Procurement – 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 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 below summarises the results of the tender assessment and the ranking of tenders.

TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF TENDER ASSESSMENT

Name of Tenderer	Ranking
Ecohort Pty Ltd	1
Good Bush Pty Ltd	2
Southern Habitat (NSW) Pty Ltd	Equal 3
Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council	Equal 3
Midges Bushland Restoration	5
Toolijooa Pty Ltd	6
Illawarra Bushland Restoration	7
Commelina Bushworks	8
Bowantz Bushfire and Environmental Pty Ltd	9
Bohmers Tree Care	10
Asplundh Tree Expert (Australia) Pty Ltd	11
Affective Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	12

PROPOSAL

Council should authorise the engagement of the nine highest ranked tenderers to carry out the required works in accordance with the scope of works and technical specifications developed for the works when required by Council.

The recommended tenderers have satisfied the Tender Assessment Panel that they are capable of undertaking the works to Council's standards and in accordance with the technical specification.

Referees nominated by the recommended tenderers have been contacted by the Tender Assessment Panel 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 Wollongong 2022 goal “We Value and Protect Our Natural Environment”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2012-2017	Annual Plan 2016-17
Strategy	5 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
1.1.4 Projects and programs that achieve enhancement of the natural environment and escarpment are developed and implemented	1.1.4.1 Implement priority actions from the Illawarra Biodiversity Strategy	Coordinate natural area restoration works at priority sites
Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2012-2017	Annual Plan 2017-18
1.1.3 The potential impacts of natural disasters, such as those related to bushfire, 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 care and control	Implement annual Bushfire Hazard Reduction Works Program for Asset Protection Zones on Council managed land

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 or services is considered low based upon Council’s risk assessment matrix and appropriate risk management strategies will be implemented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that these works be funded from the following source/s as identified in the Annual Plan –

- Council’s allocated budgets and various external grant funding

CONCLUSION

The recommended tenderers have submitted acceptable tenders for this project and Council should endorse the recommendations of this report.