

12 CONTRACT NO. 19/19 BUSHLAND RESERVE AND NATURAL AREA MAINTENANCE

FILE REFERENCE INT1969644

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council appoint the following seven (7) Tenderers onto a service panel for Contract 19/19 provision of Bushland Reserve and Natural Area Maintenance services for a maximum period of 5 years:

1. Naturelinks Landscape Management
2. Native Habitat
3. Indigenous Design Environmental Services
4. Habitat Creations
5. Eco-Repair
6. Acacia Environmental Management
7. Envirogain

Attachments

- 1 Confidential Memorandum - Circulated to Councillors only 6 Pages

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bushland Reserve and Natural Area Maintenance tender (Contract 19/19) is for works relating to the maintenance and enhancement of Council's owned and managed 76 bushland reserves, and other natural areas including roadsides across all areas of the municipality.

This tender is for the implementation of three years (plus a two year extension option). It is a schedule of rates contract, with a panel of contractors to be awarded works as required in accordance with their skills and the value proposition to Council.

Schedule of rates activities in this tender include but are not limited to:

- Provision of Management Plans and vegetation surveys incl. GPS mapping
- Brushcutting
- Chipping
- Revegetation
- Chemical Weed Control
- Physical and Mechanical Weed Control
- Pest Animal Control
- Waste & Litter Disposal

It includes supply and operation of plant and equipment and necessary safety precautions to undertake bushland reserve and natural area maintenance and conservation works as part of the Natural Reserves Management Program. It includes preparation and implementation of traffic management plans where required for working on roadsides.

Twenty-two tenders were submitted, with a panel of seven contractors recommended to undertake the implementation of bushland reserve and natural area maintenance within Cardinia Shire

(Contract 19/19). The tenders submitted by the following tenderers met all mandatory criteria, and ranked the top seven value for money and capability to undertake tasks as per the contract specification:

1. Naturelinks Landscape Management
2. Native Habitat
3. Indigenous Design Environmental Services
4. Habitat Creations
5. Eco-Repair
6. Acacia Environmental Management
7. Envirogain

BACKGROUND

In 2018, Cardinia Shire Council developed a Natural Reserves Team, within Parks Services. The Team undertake works in Council bushland reserves and vegetated roadsides, however is not resourced to undertake these works alone.

For many years, Council have engaged external bushland regeneration contractors to aid in the delivery of biodiversity protection and enhancement works across Council managed land, Shire-wide. This also includes the delivery of externally funded projects.

Advertising to market and the development of a panel arrangement will ensure Council are sourcing competitive services with a broad ranging skillset.

Council typically expends approximately \$240,000 in bushland reserves and natural area maintenance activities over the course of the year, which includes items such as weed extent mapping. Additionally, externally funded projects are carried out such as roadside weed control funded by DELWP and Corridors of Green funded by Melbourne Water.

Details of Tenders

The Bushland Reserve and Natural Area Maintenance tender (Contract 19/19) specification includes works relating to the maintenance and enhancement of 76 bushland reserves owned and managed by Council, and other natural areas including roadsides across all areas of the municipality. Works include but are not limited to weed control, revegetation, pest animal control, litter removal and the preparation of management plans and surveys.

It includes supply and operation of plant and equipment, and necessary safety precautions to undertake bushland reserve and natural area maintenance and conservation works as part of the Natural Reserves Management Program. It includes preparation and implementation of traffic management plans where required for working on roadsides.

The proposed works covered under Contract 19/19 include a 3 year initial term (plus an option to extend by up to 2 further years) for a range of activities under a schedule of rates.

Activities included in this tender are:

- Provision of Management Plans and vegetation surveys incl. GPS mapping
- Brushcutting
- Chipping
- Revegetation
- Chemical Weed Control

- Physical and Mechanical Weed Control
- Pest Animal Control
- General Labour
- Traffic Management
- Waste & Litter Disposal

Tenders were advertised on 25 May 2019 and closed 25 June 2019. A total of 22 tenders were received. All of the tenders were deemed to be conforming and were considered.

Tender Assessment

Tenders were checked against a range of non-weighted selection criteria to ensure the viability of the tender submissions. These criteria included Risk & Insurance, Conflict of Interest, OHS, Compliance to Conditions of Tender, Finance and Location.

The evaluation panel assessed tenders against the weighted criteria. These criteria included Compliance with Specifications, Capability, Relevant Experience and Past Performance, Customer Service, Locally Based, and Best practice methods ensuring long term ecologically effective outcomes. This weighted criteria combined with an assessment of the financial competitiveness of the tender formed the basis for the recommendation.

Panel Evaluation

The evaluation panel ranked and nominated the preferred proponents, who provided superior responses throughout the RFT process, including written submissions and pricing.

The evaluation panel determined that:

- A total of seven contractors would be adequate to ensure that all activities can be undertaken across the Shire and deliver projects within the allocated budgets.
- The top seven contractors provides diversity in skill sets and capability to ensure delivery of all forecast projects without the need to seek further engagement of additional contractors.
- The selected contractors provide a good spread of local engagement and close proximity to the Shire, allowing for prompt response times and reduction in travel.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The works associated with this tender are aligned with the principles of the Cardinia Shire Council Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Pest Plant Management Strategy, adopted in 2019.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

- 3.1. Provision and maintenance of assets on a life-cycle basis
 - 3.1.2. Develop new and maintain existing parks, gardens and reserves in a sustainable way.
- 3.3. Enhanced natural environment
 - 3.3.7. Protect and improve biodiversity by increasing the area of natural ecosystems across the shire.
 - 3.3.8. Preserve and improve our bushland and natural environment by implementing weed management programs and continuing work on high conservation bushland reserves and roadsides.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

- Parks Services Team - ensure the activities within the contract compliment works undertaken in the Open Space contract.
- GIS officer - development of ArcGIS mapping program for the delivery and auditing of weed management programs and data sharing with contractors.
- Biodiversity Officer - seek feedback for past programming of weed management activities to ensure schedule of rates covers all activities that are foreseeable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There will be no impact on the operating or capital works budget.

The development of a contractor panel for operational works will assist in streamlining the Natural Reserves Management Program. Council is already utilising approximately nine different contractors for these works on site or task based basis. The contractor panel will allow for more improved planning, increase in response time to undertaking required works and ongoing, long term outcomes. It will see a reduction in administrative work that is currently required to enable day to day operational work to be undertaken.

CONCLUSION

It is considered that the acceptance of the following Tenders will provide best value and range of services to Council for the provision of Bushland Reserves and Natural Area Maintenance over a maximum term of five years:

1. Naturelinks Landscape Management
2. Native Habitat
3. Indigenous Design Environmental Services
4. Habitat Creations
5. Eco-Repair
6. Acacia Environmental Management
7. Envirogain