

9 CONTRACT 17/49 - IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE VEGETATION OFFSET WORKS

FILE REFERENCE INT189519

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Michael Ellis

AUTHOR Alicia Brown

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. tender submitted by Habitat Creations be accepted for Cardinia Lakes habitat zone 1, Cardinia Lakes revegetation zone, and Bunyip and District Pony Club for the contract sum of \$106,373.10 (excl. GST) be accepted for an initial period of 3 years with a 2 year option for extension;
2. tender submitted by Envirogain Pty. Ltd. be accepted for Deep Creek, Cardinia Aqueduct Trail, Ridgetop Reserve, Melissa Way Reserve, and Peppermint Gum Reserve for the contract sum of \$66,779.00 (excl. GST) be accepted for an initial period of 3 years with a 2 year option for extension;
3. tender submitted by Indigenous Design Environmental Management be accepted for Pakenham Ridge Bushland Reserve for the contract sum of \$30,906.71 (excl. GST) be accepted for an initial period of 3 years with a 2 year option for extension;
4. remaining Tenderers be advised accordingly; and
5. Common seal of the Council be affixed to the contract documents.

Attachments

- 1 Confidential memorandum circulated to councillors only 4 Pages

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides consideration for the appointment of a panel of contractors to undertake the implementation of native vegetation offset works in nine reserves within Cardinia Shire (Contract 17/49).

Tenders were advertised on 28 October 2017 and closed 5 December 2017. Tenders were received from eight tenderers.

The evaluation panel determined that allocating a panel of contractors including Habitat Creations, Envirogain Pty. Ltd., and Indigenous Design Environmental Management to specific offset reserves represented the best value and most advantageous for Council. It is therefore recommended that Contract 17/49 for the implementation of native vegetation offset works be awarded accordingly.

BACKGROUND

When removal of native vegetation is permitted, Clause 52.17 of the Victorian Planning Provisions states that applicants must offset the biodiversity loss from the removal, destruction, or lopping of native vegetation in accordance with the Guidelines.

This tender applies to third party native vegetation offsets Council has been paid to manage. Council opted to provide third party offsets in eligible Council reserves, as it enables the biodiversity gains to be located as close as possible to where biodiversity has been lost. Offering third party native vegetation offsets creates an opportunity for council to receive additional financial resources to further protect and improve Council reserves. Enhancing natural ecosystems and bushland reserves also provides benefit to the local community.

This tender will implement native vegetation offset works in the following reserves:

- Cook Spring Reserve and Eastone Reserve, Cardinia Lakes, Pakenham.
- Deep Creek, Pakenham (different location to Deep Creek Eco-Centre).
- Pakenham Ridge Bushland Reserve, Pakenham.
- Melissa Way Reserve, Pakenham.
- Peppermint Gum Reserve, Pakenham.
- Cardinia Aqueduct Trail, Officer.
- Ridgetop Reserve, Beaconsfield Upper.
- Bunyip and District Pony Club, Bunyip.

Works to be undertaken include:

- Eliminate high threat weeds.
- Enhancement planting within existing stands of vegetation.
- Control spread of high threat pest animals.
- Introduction of logs into stands that are deficient in this attribute.
- Additional site-specific management actions, such as rubbish removal.
- Annual reporting from contractors to Council. This is a requirement from DELWP, with potential to be audited.

Tenders were advertised on 28 October 2017 and closed 5 December 2017. A total of eight tenders were received from the following:

Contractor name
Envirogain
Habitat Creations
Indigenous Design Environmental Management
Landlinks Environmental Services
SEEDS
Environmental Restorations
Land Management Systems
Felix Botanica

Tenders were evaluated against the stipulated criteria of Compliance with Specifications, Capability and Capacity, Relevant Experience and Past Performance, Quality Methods and Management,

Customer Service, Innovation, Risk & Insurance, OHS, Location, and Experience with Local Traditional Landowner Groups.

Value for Money was determined for each native vegetation offset reserve, by dividing the cost each tenderer submitted per reserve by the total weighted scores for the scored evaluation criteria. This method is defined in condition 11 of the Evaluation Plan procurement template.

To provide the best value for money, it is recommended that the implementation of native vegetation offset works be awarded to a panel of contractors consisting of Habitat Creations, Envirogain Pty. Ltd, and Indigenous Design Environmental Management for the sum of \$204,058.81.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The offsetting requirements in this tender are consistent with 'Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002), which was incorporated into the Victoria Planning Provisions from 2003 – 2014, and the guiding policy under which the funds were taken.

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

- DELWP - Appropriate offset locations determined and approval cited in Offset Management Plans. Discussed outstanding issues, and clarify essential management actions.
- Ecological consultants that authored Offset Management Plans - to seek additional information and images. Clarify discrepancies between net gain requirements and works.
- CFA and Melbourne Water - consulted during planning process for each permit application.
- Aboriginal Victoria - to ensure offset locations did not contain sites of cultural significance.
- Operations Unit - committed to manage slashing of firebreaks where appropriate.
- GIS officer - native vegetation offset locations layer added to Cardimap.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There will be no impact on the operating or capital works budgets. Funding for these works has been paid to Council by permit applicants. These payments have been held in a reserve account to use for the implementation of native vegetation offset works.

The recommended panel of tenderers is within the funding available for these works.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the tenders submitted by Habitat Creations, Envirogain Pty. Ltd, and Indigenous Design Environmental Management for a total of \$204,058.81 (excl. GST) be accepted as a panel of contractors.