

ORDINARY MEETING	17
13 SEPTEMBER 2023	

## REVEGETATION OF NATURAL AREAS GRANT

63/18/1 | #7229079

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves \$60,000 (ex GST) funding from the 2023/2024 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream to the following applicants:
  - a) Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc. for revegetation project – OVER Botanica Nature Reserve, to the value of \$11,000 (ex GST).
  - b) Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ for revegetation project – Caring for Woolanmaroo to the value of \$19,000 (ex GST).
  - c) Marlin Coast Men’s Shed Inc. for revegetation project – Moore’s Gully & Surrounds Program Stage 1. to value of \$15,000 (ex GST).
  - d) Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc. for revegetation project – Barbagallo Road, Riparian Corridor Linkage, to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above funding agreements.

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### INTERESTED PARTIES:

See Attachment 1.

*Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.*

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Four applications requesting support through the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream have been received to a total value of \$60,000 (ex GST).

Officers recommend funding all applications up to a total value of \$60,000 (ex GST).

### BACKGROUND:

The intent of the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant program provides funding to establish revegetation of natural areas to improve the native habitat and contribute to the enhancement of the Cairns natural area and biodiversity. Cairns Regional Council recognises the importance of collaborating with our community to achieve an

environmentally sustainable future. The Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant aims to achieve environmental outcomes with an opportunity to undertake on-ground activities to rehabilitate degraded landscapes, protect and improve habitat/biodiversity and improve the climate resilience of the Cairns natural environment.

The Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant aids through cash to the maximum amount per application is \$60,000 (ex GST).

Four requests have been received and will be executed over a 12-month period from Oct 2023 to October 2024.

Applicant	Project	Amount requested (ex GST)
Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc.	Botanica Nature Reserve	\$11,000
Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ	Caring for Woolanmaroo	\$19,000
Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc.	Moore's Gully & Surrounds Stage 1	\$15,000
Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc.	Barbagallo Road, Riparian Corridor Linkage	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$60,000</b>

#### **COMMENT:**

The following applications are recommended for funding through the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream.

**Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc. to the value of \$11,000 (ex GST).**

**Project: Botanica Nature Reserve**

**Timeframe: 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2024**

Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc. is the auspice for the Occasional Volunteer Ecological Restoration group, also known as OVER the Hill Landcare.

The main objective of this project is to rehabilitate and restore the natural ecology and enhance the natural resilience of the reserve buffer zone between the established residential homes of Fig Tree Drive and the newly established Botanica Over 50s Lifestyle Resort residential homes by providing habitat for native flora and fauna, complementary to existing native vegetation and species habitat.

The revegetation project will be undertaken in three stages as per rainforest restoration methodology. Stage 1 is the establishment of canopy to large areas previously cleared.

Stage 2 is the infill planting of areas between the new planting and established trees to provide continuous connection of habitat and includes gap planting where sections or individual trees of Stage 1 have not been successful past the second maintenance period.

Stage 3 is specialist planting of trees, shrubs, grasses, epiphytes, and vines to assist rainforest biodiversity and riparian restoration.

This is the first time Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc is requesting \$11,000 (ex GST) cash towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$11,000 (ex GST) cash.



**Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ to the value of \$19,000 (ex GST).**

**Project: Caring for Woolanmaroo**

**Timeframe: 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2024**

As Traditional Owners, the Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ wish to participate in activities to better care for Lot 123. Woolanmaroo is an unmanaged Council Reserve and is within the Madjandji Ancestral Estate. Ecologist Peter Stanton highlighted the conservation significance and the need for management of this coastal lowland. The area has outstanding features of cultural, scenic, scientific, and recreational interest.

The area is subject to environmental pest plant invasion from the residential properties to the south but is in near pristine condition in other sections. The area is a known cassowary habitat. This project plan covers portions of the Council Reserve for the purposes of pest management and debris removal.

The project aims to:

- Target approximately 1.7km of coastline, stretching 50m inland and around the freshwater lagoon.
- High priority will be given to habitat protection.
- Rangers will manage weed species as identified in the CRC list of target pest plants.
- Conduct site assessments to preserve the important environmental and cultural features of the area.

- Rangers will record the extent of marine debris, feral pig damage, and evidence of yellow crazy ants.
- A meeting with our partners CRC, Wet Tropics Management Authority and Tangaroa Blue will be scheduled to deliver the progress of the project and recommendations for ongoing habitat protection and enhancement.

The Madjaybana Ranger team are experienced, trained and equipped in all field activities required for the delivery of the project. Rangers are presently enrolled in a Certified Energy Manager Certificate Course, which will be completed by the project start date. Rangers have completed, fire management and croc awareness training, snake identification and handling, and participated in the Terrain symposium focusing on best practice of feral pig management. Rangers are presently contracted by Greening Australia to deliver habitat restoration in the lower Mulgrave River catchment. They are also conducting scientific and cultural monitoring of the catchment feeder creeks, and riverine re-vegetation on degraded farmland in the Mulgrave River catchment.

Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ has a standing Memorandum of Understanding with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service; Tim Collins and Chris Roach have offered technical assistance and support if needed. Our valued Natural Resource Management partners in Department of Resources, Mulgrave Landcare, Greening Australia, and Terrain are also on hand for specific technical advice and guidance.

Target Weeds of National Significance species are likely to be brought into this site on tidal currents or storm surges. This coastline is also heavily impacted by marine debris due to its aspect.

Rangers will plan for several site visits to eradicate high propriety weeds, Hymenachne, Pond Apple-*Annona glabra*, Singapore daisy- *Sphagneticola trilobata* and coconuts, plus conduct overall site assessments, and record the presence of other weeds of lesser priority, rubbish, marine debris, and pigs.

Madjandji people have lifetimes of practical traditional ecological knowledge and an oral history recalling the changes that have occurred in these lands. MAC wishes to play a greater role culturally informing, engaging, strengthening our partnerships, and participating in combined efforts with Cairns Regional Council and other organisations to look after this site, with a big focus on habitat preservation and restoration.

Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ is requesting \$19,000 (ex GST) cash towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$19,000 (ex GST) cash.



**Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc. to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).**

**Project: Moore's Gully and Surrounds Revegetation Program Stage 1**

**Timeframe: 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2024**

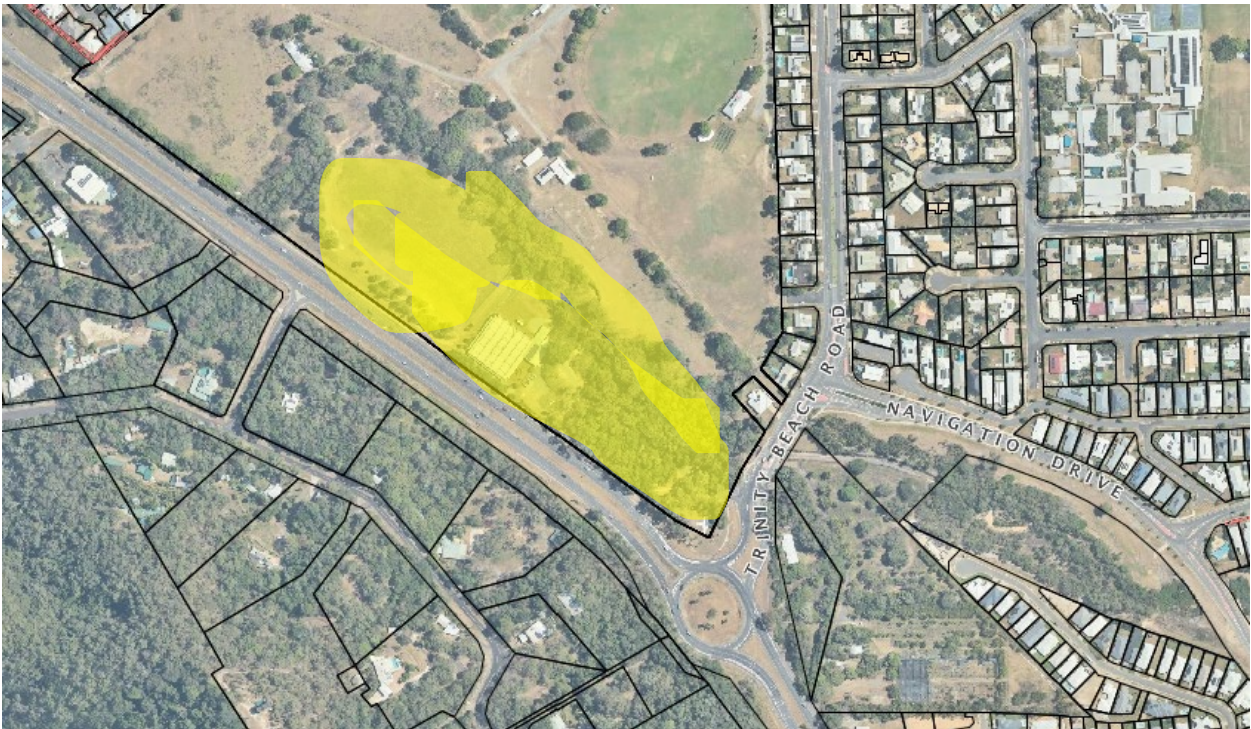
The proposed site of this Revegetation Plan for Moore's Gully is just outside the western and northern boundaries of the leased area of the Marlin Coast Men's Shed. Access to the proposed revegetation site will be from the Men's Shed. It will continue along Moore's Gully alongside the leased area of the Men's Shed. The Revegetation Management Plan refers to both sides of this section of Moore's Gully as well as the vacant paddock to the west of Moore's Gully north of the Marlin Coast Bowls Club.

The project objectives are:

- To identify and then gradually remove some invasive tree species that have grown up along this water course over time but preserve major trees that support the embankments of the gully itself.
- To plant appropriate species to enhance this habitat for occupation by the many insect and bird species, wallabies, gliders, and other fauna that would naturally inhabit this area when the appropriate vegetation is provided.
- To rehabilitate the fringing area along both sides of the creek banks with appropriate planting to prevent further erosion.
- To create a mixed forest of endemic species to return this degraded area to its natural condition.

Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc. is requesting \$15,000 (ex GST) cash towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST) cash.



**Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc. to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).**

**Project: Barbagallo Road, Riparian Corridor Linkage**

**Timeframe: 1 October 2023 to 31 October 2024**

This project is a 1,000-tree revegetation extension, upstream of our previous successful 2022-24 Cairns Regional Council's Resource and Performance Agreement project along the Mulgrave River. Weeds such as Cow Cane, Guinea Grass, Navua Sedge, Calopo will be replaced by local provenance riparian trees and shrubs. Tree planting will begin in 2023 with continued maintenance until 2025 and beyond. Due to the close proximity, maintenance of the previous RPA planting can continue as well.

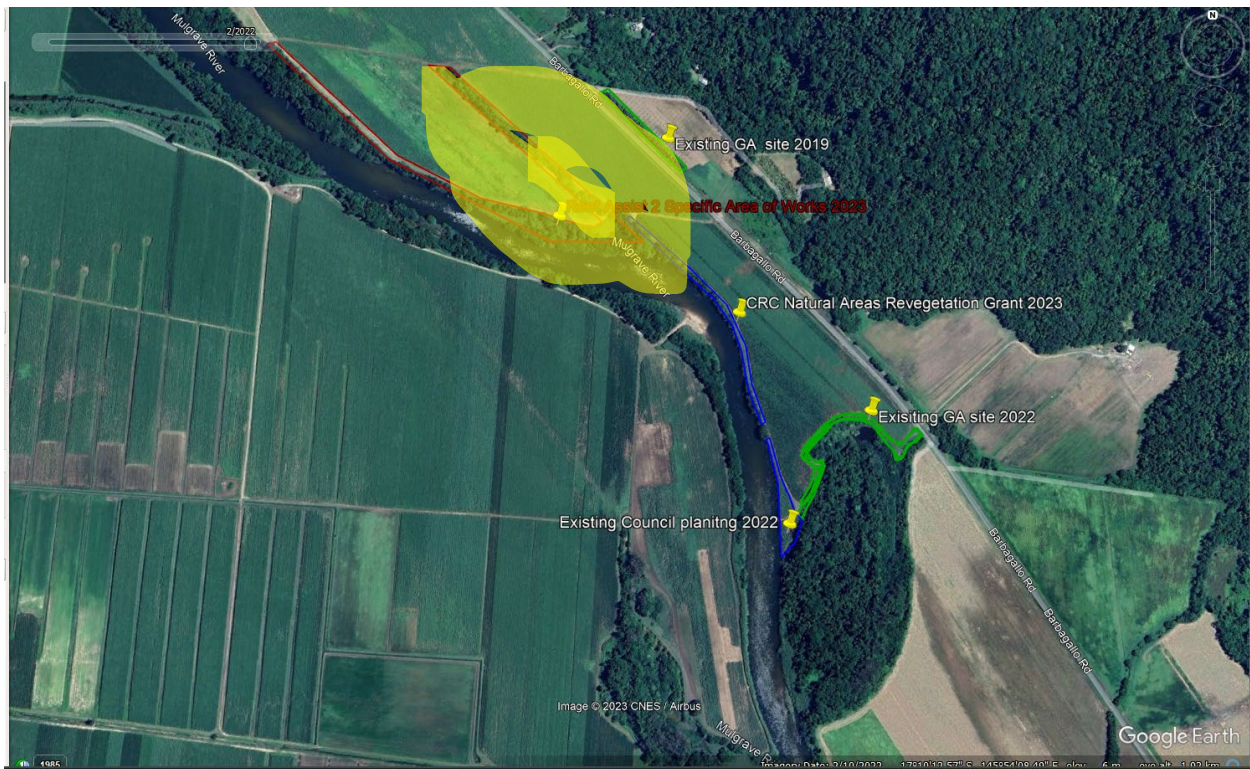
The objective of this project is for Mulgrave Landcare to:

- Continue core business of improving and connecting riparian biodiversity/habitat/ climate corridors throughout the Mulgrave catchment.
- A focus will also be on controlling CRC's 'Priority Pest Plants' and weeds Hymenachne and Pond Apple in the immediate area, and awareness of any emerging weeds on the list.
- Soft erosion control by trees.
- Community engagement and education about our local environment and issues.
- Improving the mental health and social isolation of farmers and youth.

This project will complete the missing link in the middle of a 2.4km riparian corridor which was started in May 2022. Tree planting will begin in 2023 with continued maintenance until 2025 and beyond of concern riverine wetland – Biodiversity Status.

Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc. is requesting \$15,000 (ex GST) cash towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST) cash.



## **OPTIONS:**

### **Option 1: (Recommended)**

That Council:

1. Approves \$60,000 (ex GST) funding from the 2023/2024 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream to the following applicants:
  - a) Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc. for revegetation project – Botanica Nature Reserve, to the value of \$11,000 (ex GST).
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- d) Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc. for revegetation project – Barbagallo Road, Riparian Corridor Linkage, to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).
2. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above funding agreements.

Option 2:

That Council does not endorse the recommendations and adopts an alternative funding allocation.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Risk Management:

While these projects are at risk of unforeseen weather events the risk is minimum due to timeframe of 12 months for project completion.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The recommended funding can be accommodated within Council's 2023/2024 from within the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant funding allocation.

Budget considerations

- A total of 4 applications will be recommended for funding to a total of \$63,000 (ex GST)
- This allocation will be taken from the 2023/2024 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream budget.

2023/2024 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant	
2023/24 Budget	60,000
Recommended in this report	(60,000)
<b>Remaining Budget 2023/24</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Local Economy:

These projects will contribute to the local economy in the short-term by the purchase of local goods and services required for revegetation projects.

Natural Environment

Through this grant stream the community will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and behaviours for life-long environmental stewardship and sustainable biodiversity. This has the potential to deliver immediate and ongoing improvements in Cairns' natural areas and improve pest management, habitat improvements, erosion control, fire risk mitigation and storm tide inundation risk mitigation.

## Corporate Plan

Providing financial support for community revegetation projects will contribute to following strategic vision and goals:

- Responsibility – Transparency and responsibility to our community.
- Natural Assets – Promoting, protecting, and enhancing our iconic natural environment now and for generations to come.
  - Value and protect Cairns' pristine natural environment.
  - Improved quality of our waterways.
- Community and Culture – Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong.
  - Provide spaces and programs for the wellbeing of the community.
  - Participation in events and activities funded, supported, or delivered by Council.
  - Improved sustainability of community groups.

## Statutory:

Nil.

## Policy:

Council's Community Grant Policy and has been applied in the assessment of these applications.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Interested Parties.



Brett Spencer  
Executive Manager Community Life



Destry Puia  
Director Lifestyle and Community

**ATTACHMENT 1: INTERESTED PARTIES****Caravonica 1077 Residents Association Inc.**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Lyn Crooks
Treasurer	Marg Hoffman
Secretary	Keryn Elliott
Committee Member	Michael Marek
Committee Member	Coin Alderton
Coordinator	Maurie Roshier

**Madjandji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBZ**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Director	Clive Murray
Director	Jennifer Bull
Director	Melissa Club
Elders steering committee	Margie Satani
Elders steering committee	Marcella Broome
Elders steering committee	Cecilia Mow
Elders steering committee	Josephine Mow
Elders steering committee	Maylene Swaine

**Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc.**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Mark Eichorn
Treasurer	Darrell Poulier
Secretary	Martin Greet
Shed Manager	Kevin Beveridge
Members Representative	Peter Linklater

**Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc.**

<b>Committee Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
President	Tony Rossi
Treasurer	Pat Cotter
Secretary	Deb Trehearn
Committee Member	Nara Crotty
Committee Member	Rachel Platte
Coordinator	Lisa O'Mara