

REVEGETATION OF NATURAL AREAS GRANT

L&C | 61/6/1 | #7919416

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves \$50,400 (ex GST) funding from the 2026/2027 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream to the following applicants:
 - a) Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc. for revegetation project – Northern Beaches Bike Path, Trinity Park/Smithfield to value of \$10,400 (ex GST).
 - b) The Agile Project - Wildlife Rescue Inc. for revegetation project – Bluewater Parklands Stage 2, Trinity Beach to value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
 - c) Treeforce Association Inc. for revegetation project – Zone 10 Cattana Wetlands Phase 4, Redlynch to the value of \$20,000 (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.

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:

Three eligible applications requesting support through the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream have been received and Council officers recommend funding all applications up to a total value of \$50,400 (ex GST).

BACKGROUND:

The intent of the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant program is to provide funding to establish revegetation of natural areas to improve the native habitat and contribute to the enhancement of the Cairns natural area and biodiversity. 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 provides cash aid up to a maximum of \$20,000 (excluding GST) per application.

The following applications for the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant have been received:

Applicant	Project	Amount Requested (ex GST)	Amount Recommended (ex GST)
Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc.	Northern Beaches Bike Path, Trinity Park/Smithfield	\$10,400	\$10,400
The Agile Project – Wildlife Rescue Inc.	Bluewater Parklands Stage 2, Trinity Beach	\$20,000	\$20,000
Treeforce Association Inc.	Zone 10 Cattana Wetlands Phase 4, Redlynch	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total		\$50,400	\$50,400

COMMENT:

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

Organisation: Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc.

Value: \$10,400 (ex GST)

Project: Northern Beaches Bike Path

Timeframe: 20 December 2026 to 16 December 2027

This project aims to transform the currently under-utilised walking and cycling pathway within the Northern Beaches area by establishing a diverse collection of locally native shade trees. A major factor contributing to the low use of this pathway is the lack of tree canopy, which makes walking and cycling uncomfortable during the warmer months.

The benefits of the project extend well beyond shade provision. As the trees mature, they will enhance landscape amenity, improve the visual appeal of the area, and create valuable habitat for local wildlife. The project will contribute to biodiversity conservation by establishing a broad representation of native species from the Wet Tropics region.

Since 2023/2024, Council resolved to support Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc through the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream up to the total value of \$51,475 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Moore's Gully – Stage 3	\$16,475
2024/2025	Moore's Gully – Stage 2	\$20,000
2023/2024	Moore's Gully – Stage 1	\$15,000

Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc. is requesting \$10,400 (ex GST) cash towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$10,400 (ex GST) cash.

Organisation: The Agile Project – Wildlife Rescue Inc.
Value: \$20,000 (ex GST)
Project: Bluewater Parklands - Stage 2
Timeframe: 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027

The objective of this planting project is to restore the mowed paddock areas and former construction zones in the Bluewater Parklands. By rehabilitating these habitats and eliminating invasive weeds, they aim to enhance wildlife habitats and improve the area's scenic value. Importantly, it will also significantly reduce the ongoing maintenance costs, primarily associated with mowing and slashing the site.

Since 2025/2026, Council resolved to support The Agile Project – Wildlife Rescue Inc through the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream up to the total value of \$17,180 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Bluewater Parklands – Stage 1	\$17,180

The Agile Project – Wildlife Rescue Inc. is requesting \$20,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST) cash.

Organisation: Treeforce Association Inc.
Value: \$20,000 (ex GST)
Project: Zone 10 Cattana Wetlands – Phase 4
Timeframe: 1 November 2026 to 1 November 2028

This project aims to stabilise low-lying areas and improve ecosystem resilience and habitat quality within the Cattana Wetlands Conservation Area. The planting will continue the diversity of ecotypes associated with the Cattana natural area's community use and bird watching opportunities.

As the trees mature, they will enhance the area's landscape, improve its visual appeal, and create valuable habitats for local wildlife. Additionally, the project will contribute to biodiversity conservation by establishing a wide representation of native species from the Wet Tropics region and surrounding areas.

Since 2024/2025, Council resolved to support Treeforce Association Inc through the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream up to the total value of \$40,000 (ex GST).

This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Western Arterial Conservation Park – Phase 2	\$20,000
2024/2025	Zone 20 Cattana Wetlands – Phase 2	\$20,000

Treeforce Association Inc is requesting \$20,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of this project.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST) cash.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves \$50,400 (ex GST) funding from the 2026/2027 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream to the following applicants:
 - a. Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc. for revegetation project – Northern Beaches Bike Path, Trinity Park/Smithfield to the value of \$10,400 (ex GST).
 - b. The Agile Project - Wildlife Rescue Inc. for revegetation project – Bluewater Parklands Stage 2, Trinity Beach to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST)
 - c. Treeforce Association Inc. for revegetation project – Zone 10 Cattana Wetlands Phase 4, Redlynch to the value of \$20,000 (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 minimal due to a timeframe of 12-24 months for project completion.

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The recommended funding can be accommodated within Council's 2026/2027 budget from within the Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant funding allocation.

Budget considerations

- A total of three applications will be recommended for funding to a total of \$50,400 (ex GST)
- This allocation will be taken from the 2026/2027 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant stream budget.

2026/2027 Revegetation of Natural Areas Grant	
2026/2027 Budget	\$66,000
Recommended in this report	\$50,400
Remaining Budget 2026/2027	\$15,600

Local Economy

These projects will contribute to the local economy in the short-term by the purchase of local plants and supplies 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.

Consultation

The consultation process involved obtaining necessary approvals from key stakeholders within the organisation, as well as securing the agreement of the Divisional Councillor(s). This included discussions with relevant departments to ensure alignment and address any concerns, followed by a formal review to finalise the decisions.

Assessment

Eligible applicants were scored based on their responses to following questions by four Council Officers knowledgeable about revegetation of natural areas.

- Detail how your project aligns with the objectives of the grant (20%)
- Revegetation management plan and techniques (50%)
- Demonstrate how this project is cost effective (20%)
- Evidence of capability of the organisation to plan, manage and deliver the project (10%)

Corporate Plan

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

- Natural Assets – Promoting, protecting, and enhancing our iconic natural environment now and for generations to come.
 - Value and protect Cairns' pristine natural environment.
- Community and Culture – Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong.
 - Support diverse sport, cultural and community groups.
 - Provide spaces and programs for the benefit of the community

Statutory:

The Community Grant Policy and associated schedules are compliant with the specific community grant requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Policy:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Interested Parties



Andrew Moore
Executive Manager Community Life



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle and Community

ATTACHMENT 1: INTERESTED PARTIES

Marlin Coast Men's Shed Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Bern Lyons
Treasurer	Bern Lyons
Secretary	Daryl Parker
Shed Manager	Phil Brooke
Members Representative	Bill Jacobs

The Agile Project – Wildlife Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Anne Roessger
Treasurer	Trish Sechser
Secretary	Shai Ager
Vice Secretary	Jess Mackie
Vice Treasurer	Roland Stuart
Animal Welfare Advisor	Erin Howell
Reveg Coordinator	Jesse Lovey

Treeforce Association Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Boyd Lenne
Vice President	Don Tenant
Treasurer	Jacqui Dedecius
Secretary	Jeremy Mason
Coordinator	Sarah Sims
Committee Member	Renee Lenne
Committee Member	Matt Tinus (CRC employee)
Committee Member	Geoff heath
Committee Member	Ryan Milham