

Budget Proposal for Community Landcare FY 2024-2028



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Prepared by Ginninderra Catchment Group for

the Australian Capital Territory Government



Budget Submission for Ginninderra Catchment Group

Introduction and Background

The Ginninderra Catchment Group (GCG) is dedicated to environmental stewardship and sustainable land management within the Ginninderra region. Our activities encompass landcare, citizen science, community engagement, and education. GCG operates in the water catchments of Ginninderra Creek and Yass River, areas that support at least two-thirds of the ACT's population.

The Ginninderra Creek rises in Mulligans Flat, Forde, meanders through Gungahlin, Belconnen including Lake Ginninderra, and West Belconnen before crossing into NSW and entering the Murrumbidgee River. The Yass River, located in NSW, flows through Sutton, Gundaroo, and Yass before entering Burrinjuck Reservoir on the Murrumbidgee River. Our catchment is part of the Murray–Darling Basin.

Our key stakeholders include the Australian Government, ACT Government, Icon Water, private businesses, other landcare groups, and the community.

Key Objectives

1. **Supporting Member Groups:** Actively assist nearly 20 urban and rural member groups in carrying out local initiatives that contribute to the protection of natural landscapes.
2. **Community Engagement and Education:** Enhance environmentally responsible behaviors and improve environmental literacy through various community activities and education programs.
3. **Citizen Science Monitoring:** Engage the community in monitoring local wildlife and habitats through programs like FrogWatch and Waterwatch.

Achievements under Current Funding Program

In the 2022-2023 financial year, the Ginninderra Catchment Group has achieved significant environmental and operational outcomes, including:

- Commonwealth Urban Rivers Project: Secured a \$2.775 million grant over 3.5 years in partnership with Landcare ACT and sister organizations to conduct significant on-ground restoration works along Ginninderra Creek.
- On-Ground Achievements: Continued delivery of projects by member groups, ensuring the protection of Ngunawal ring trees and woodlands along the Barton Highway.
- Community Engagement: Conducted 15+ stakeholder events, submitted 10 consultations and submissions, organized 14 community events, and established partnerships with 30 organizations.
- Volunteer and Member Group Support: Grew member groups to 31, supported the formation of new groups, and provided ongoing assistance to existing groups.
- Citizen Science Monitoring: Conducted regular FrogWatch and Waterwatch activities, including training volunteers and organizing surveys to track local wildlife populations.

Budget Request

We are requesting total recurrent funding of \$250,000 per annum from the ACT Government. This funding is crucial to enable us to maintain and expand our capacity to provide continuity for our services with a more structured approach.

Breakdown of Requested Funding

1. **Program Coordination (Org Executive Officer): \$87,750**
 - Responsibilities: Overseeing all GCG programs, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and project management.
 - Expected Outcomes: Enhanced overall coordination and execution of projects, improved engagement with stakeholders, and efficient strategic planning and implementation.
2. **Volunteer and Community Support: \$68,250**
 - Responsibilities: Facilitating project development, funding support, administration, resource provision, and communication services.
 - Expected Outcomes: Enhanced project execution, better resource allocation, increased group activity, and improved community engagement.
3. **Broad Community Communications & Education: \$68,250**
 - Responsibilities: Organising community events, promoting Landcare activities, and maintaining partnerships.
 - Expected Outcomes: Increased volunteer participation, heightened environmental awareness, and stronger community partnerships.
4. **Admin and Organisational Support: \$25,750**
 - Responsibilities: Overseeing project planning, partnership management, financial management, and reporting.
 - Expected Outcomes: Improved administrative efficiency, better financial management, and streamlined operations.

Specific Functions and Expected Outcomes

1. **Program Coordination (Org Executive Officer)**
 - Function: The Executive Officer will oversee all programs, ensuring alignment with strategic goals and effective stakeholder engagement.
 - Outcomes:
 - Enhanced overall coordination and execution of projects
 - Improved engagement with stakeholders
 - Efficient strategic planning and implementation
2. **Volunteer and Community Support**
 - Function: Provide direct support to member groups, including project development, funding support, and resource provision.
 - Outcomes:
 - 15 projects scoped with members
 - 10 funding applications submitted
 - 31+ groups supported
 - 10 communication activities
 - 20+ community users accessing the Catchment Group Hub
 - 5 stakeholder engagement sessions
 - 5 contributions to consultation reports

3. Broad Community Communications & Education

- Function: Organise and promote community events, enhance communication channels, and foster partnerships.
- Outcomes:
- 2 on-ground community events
- 2 education activities
- 10 new partners engaged
- 15 activities/events promoting stewardship and environmental literacy

4. Admin and Organisational Support

- Function: Manage project planning, partnership and contract management, financial management, and reporting.
- Outcomes:
- Mid-term Report by 25th February
- Final Report by 31st August

Conclusion

The Ginninderra Catchment Group is committed to fostering a sustainable and thriving natural environment in the Ginninderra region. By securing this funding, we will be able to enhance our efforts in supporting member groups, engaging the community, and building our organisational capacity. These initiatives will result in significant environmental benefits and a stronger, more engaged community.

We appreciate your consideration of our funding request and look forward to the opportunity to further discuss how we can continue to work together to achieve our shared environmental goals.