



# 2019-2020 ACT ENVIRONMENT GRANTS APPLICATION FORM

Please complete details in this form and tick all the relevant boxes

The 2019-2020 ACT Environment Grants Application Information Pack can be downloaded from [www.environment.act.gov.au/act-nrm/grants,-volunteering-and-events/grants](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/act-nrm/grants,-volunteering-and-events/grants).

Use the 2019-2020 ACT Environment Grants Application Information Pack to help you complete **all** sections in this application form.

If you need additional assistance completing this form, please contact the Grants Coordinator by emailing: [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au).

## Application summary

Name of applicant: **ACT Red Hill Bush Regenerators (Red Hill Regenerators)**

Project title: **The ecology and movement of ACT's adult female Little Eagles**

Amount of grant funding sought (exclusive of GST): **\$30,000**

## Information about the applicant

Applicant type, indicate the type of organisation you are by answering the questions below:

Incorporated organisation\* - Yes or No: **Yes**

Individual\*\* Yes or No: **No**

Other non-incorporated organisation\*\* Yes or No (Please specify): **No**

**\*If you are an incorporated organisation you must attach the Taxation Status Form to this application form which can be accessed at [abr.business.gov.au](http://abr.business.gov.au).**

**\*\*If you are an individual or other non-incorporated applicant you will need to lodge your application through an incorporated organisation. (See Application Information Pack section 1.3.1 Role of the Sponsor).**

## ABN and GST Registration

Do you have an ABN? **Yes** or **No**: **No**

If **Yes** Please provide your ABN:



Are you registered for GST? **Yes** or **No**:

### Statement about the applicant

*Please provide a statement of no more than 150 words outlining the principle aims and objectives of your organisation. If you are an individual, please provide information about yourself to support your application. Please type your statement below.*

The Red Hill Regeneration Group is a ParkCare group that aims to research, enhance, monitor and promote Red Hill's woodlands and wildlife. The group has been active for more than 30 years, has engaged thousands of residents, school kids and specialist groups in many tens of thousands of hour of on-ground restoration works, education walks and research programs.

The Group has successfully undertaken many funded weeding, planting, erosion control and threatened species conservation projects and is a multiple Landcare/ParkCare award winner. It currently has around 100 members. Group members located all of the currently known Gang Gang nesting trees identified as part of a Canberra-wide project and are responsible for about a third of the Little Eagle sightings on Canberra Nature Map.



## Information about the project

*Please provide an overview of no more than 250 words outlining what your project will do and why it is needed. Make sure you provide accurate facts and information about your project. This information may be used to showcase your project for media or communication purposes should your application be successful. Please type your statement below.*

This project will acquire and attach four GPS trackers to female adult Little Eagles, analyse this information, undertake field observation and collect prey remains and pellets. It will provide new information on adult female Little Eagle movement and breeding behaviour. It will have a particular focus on where and what females do both within and outside of the breeding season and what habitat features or areas within the ACT are important for their survival. It will examine what they eat and where they go to forage.

Four trackers is the minimum required for results to be considered meaningfully representative of all female Little Eagles nesting in the ACT. However, the project could proceed if only three trackers were funded.

The work will be a collaboration with an existing Little Eagle Working Group, comprising researchers associated with the CSIRO, Australian National University, Ginninderry and the ACT Government. The project utilises the technical expertise of the existing group and harnesses the observation powers and numbers of the Red Hill Regenerators. The Little Eagle Working Group will utilise their own and other sources of funding to further the work in regards to adult male and fledgling Little Eagles.

The Little Eagle Working Group has previously attached ten transmitters to adult males and fledglings born within the ACT. Breeding season data was obtained for all ten birds while trackers from eight birds continue recording and also recorded data outside of the breeding season. All of these birds travelled large distances across Australia outside of the breeding season or once fledged. The movement behaviour of adult females outside the breeding season is unknown. Red Hill is one of a few places known in the ACT where a female Little Eagle has been regularly observed outside of the breeding season, and will be a focus for an out-of-season behavioural study.

## Permission for on-ground activities

*Does your project include work on land which is NOT owned by you?*

Yes or No: **Yes** – access to land will continue to be organised by our collaborating partners

\*If **Yes**, please contact the land manager/owner to obtain written permission and approval for undertaking the work. Please attach evidence of the authorisation.

If you are unsure who to contact please contact the Grants Coordinator by emailing them [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au).



Permission to undertake work on sites that are of cultural or heritage significance

*Does your project include work on sites which are of cultural or heritage significance? No*

If **Yes**, please obtain written permission and approval for undertaking the work. Please attach evidence of the authorisation.

If you are unsure please contact ACT Heritage to ensure your project does not trigger the ACT Heritage Act?

Interacting with native plants or animals

*Does your project involve interaction with native plants and animals? Yes*

Actual interactions (other than passive observation) will be undertaken by Stuart Rae and research collaborators who have ethics approval and wildlife licences.

The ethics approval is [Animal ethics permit CEAE 14-01, University of Canberra](#).

A current wildlife license is attached.

**\*If yes, you must attach evidence that you can comply with the permits and licensing requirements of the ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014.**

**For more information, see Application Information Pack section 2.3 Working with Native Plants and Animals.**

If you are unsure who to contact please contact the Grants Coordinator by emailing [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au).



## Addressing the selection criteria

Your application will be assessed based on the information you provide against the following five selection criteria. You must address all five selection criteria for your application to be valid.

See Application Information Pack Section 3.0 Completing your Application Form & Section 4.0 How will your Application be Assessed.

### ACT Environment Grants Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria 1: Alignment with funding priorities for 2019-20 ACT Environment Grants

Selection Criteria 2: Effectiveness of your project

Selection Criteria 3: Level of project planning

Selection Criteria 4: Soundness of project budgeting and value for money

Selection Criteria 5: Level of community and stakeholder engagement



## Selection Criteria 1: Alignment with funding priorities for the 2019-20 ACT Environment Grants

### Instructions for Selection Criteria 1:

Please indicate which priorities are relevant to your project.

See Application Information Pack section 1.8 Funding Priorities for the 2019-20 ACT Environment Grants

- a. Enhance condition and connectivity of woodlands, grasslands and/or aquatic ecosystems; **No:**
- b. Help manage threats to biodiversity, such as managing weeds and/or pest animals; **Yes:**
- c. Protect native plants and animals; **Yes:**
- d. Enhance biodiversity in urban areas; **Yes:**
- e. Engage the community in on-ground environmental work; **No:**
- f. Connect people to nature through innovative approaches; **No:**
- g. Improve opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through 'Connecting to Country'; **No:**

Please type your statement below:

The Little Eagle is listed as vulnerable to extinction in the ACT. The ACT Little Eagle Action Plan states *"Critical to effective conservation actions for the Little Eagle is a greater understanding of its habitat use, home range requirements, and whether interactions between little eagles and wedge-tailed eagles have increased to a level that is detrimental to little eagle breeding success."*

This project would enable the extension of existing work and allow a focus on adult female Little Eagles, their habitat use, home range requirements and how they live in relation to the urban environment of the ACT. This greater understanding will provide guidance as to how urban habitat can be enhanced, what habitat is critical to be protected to retain the ongoing viability of adult females in the ACT and how the chief threat to this species (clearance of habitat) can most effectively be avoided or minimised.

Competition with Wedge-tailed Eagles has been suggested as another possible reason for decline, although the two species have evolved to live in the same continent, so it is unlikely to be a primary cause. However, there might be interactions between them at a local scale which could elucidate niche separation of their specific habitat uses. The tracking data, together with on ground observation of female nest sites and foraging locations will record interactions with Wedge-tailed Eagles and allow comparison of breeding range shape and location against surveyed for Wedge-Tailed eagle nest sites. Sites of focused observations by the existing researchers and Red Hill Regenerator volunteers include Red Hill, and sites in West Belconnen and Fyshwick-Hume.

## Selection Criteria 2: Effectiveness of your project

Instructions for Selection Criteria 2. In this section of your application you must:

- a. Describe what your project is going to do to benefit the environment.
- b. If your project includes on-ground work, include information about:
  - i. Where you intend to work. That is, provide location detail, attachment of spatial information files is preferable.
  - ii. Indication of the proposed scale and scope of on-ground activities using quantifiable measure. E.g. number of hectares to be revegetated and number of stems to be planted.
  - iii. Evidence of land owner's/manager's permission to work on specified site(s).
  - iv. Evidence of current condition of the site(s) you propose working in. This information will be used as a project baseline and enable the project to be monitored and assessed. There are a range of free on-line applications such as the Collector App which can be used to provide spatial data. Contact the Grants Coordinator at [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au) for more information.
  - v. Evidence of permission to work on heritage or culturally significant sites, and/or to work with indigenous Australians (if relevant). Contact ACT Heritage by emailing: [heritage@act.gov.au](mailto:heritage@act.gov.au) for more information.

This project will build on existing proven research that is yielding much new information critical to understanding the ecology and movement of the threatened Little Eagle and how to best manage its habitat to ensure its ongoing viability within the ACT.

The project has already determined that there are a least 10 pairs of Little Eagles that either nest in the ACT (nine pairs) or frequently forage within the ACT while nesting nearby in NSW. Previously it was thought that three or less breeding pairs remained in the region. The study has also determined that males have large breeding territories of over 65 sq. km and largely hunt rabbit kittens, common middle sized birds like rosellas and starlings and large skinks and dragons. In addition, it seems that all males and fledglings leave the breeding territory and take large trans-continental journeys outside of the breeding season.

Females are over 1/3 larger in size than males and may have different foraging behaviour and territories to males. Existing observations also suggests that at least some adult females may spend the non-breeding season in the ACT region. This project will determine what the breeding and movement behaviour of female birds is in the ACT and provide guidance as to how the species as a whole can be best protected and how their habitat may be enhanced.

Researchers and volunteers under the direction of researchers will map locations and flight-lines of Wedge-tailed Eagles and Little Eagles and any interactions noted. The positions and movements of the two species will allow determination of how the two species interact in space and in what habitats. The notes on interactions will give guidance on whether there is hierarchy or competition between the two species, and interspecific use of habitats, foods, nest sites or any other resources

### Selection Criteria 3: Level of project planning

#### Instructions for Selection Criteria 3:

In this section of your application, you must demonstrate that you have effectively planned your project:

- a. Complete a project plan which shows the steps involved in undertaking your project including
  - i. Activities
  - ii. Milestones and
  - iii. Timelines (Such as the project completion date)
- b. Identify who will partner with you
- c. Describe how you will monitor and evaluate your project

A project plan template is available if you need it, from the Grants Coordinator by emailing [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au).

Activity	Who will do	Effort required	Resources Required	When will it happen	Milestone/ monitoring
Purchase transmitters	RHR in consultation with Micah Davies (CSIRO)	Up to half a day administration	Purchase cost of transmitters	As soon as grant awarded	Transmitters purchased
Female non-breeding season foraging sites searched for, identified and observed.	Stuart Rae and Red Hill Regenerators under direction from Stuart Rae	20 x 3-4 hour observation/ survey blocks	Observation/ survey only	Up until August 2019 and then from March 2020	5, 10 and 15 blocks of observations achieved.  At least two roosting sites identified
Known LE nest sites observed and new sites searched for	Stuart Rae, CSIRO, ACT Government and Ginninderry members of project team with assistance from RHR	200 hours. Pairs can use different nests both within and across seasons so need to check existing nests and, if not in use, look for nearby alternatives. RHR	Observation only	September – December.	All nests known to be utilised over the last two years checked.  Potential nests Freshford, wider Red Hill and Fairvale areas searched

		will spend 50 hours searching for new nests in vicinity of Red Hill and elsewhere			for by RHR.
Female Little Eagles trapped and transmitters attached	Stuart Rae (ANU) with assistance from project team and RHR re identification of foraging sites	100 hours trapping and attaching trackers	Traps already constructed  Stuart Rae paid for 50 hrs work and supervision	July –August (prior to nesting) and December – February (post leaving nest)	No of trackers attached to adult females
Observations of nest and interactions with Wedge-tail Eagles	Stuart Rae, CSIRO, ACT Government and Ginninderry members of project team with assistance from RHR	Additional 50 hours observation by RHR in addition to observations made at LE nest sites	Observations	WTE nests mainly searched for April – September, interactions mainly during LE breeding season August – February.	WTE nest locations known within area in which LE is breeding (northern ACT)
Downloading and analysis of Tracker data	Little Eagle Project team (not RHR)		Cost of downloading data	Downloading as soon as trackers attached – report of downloads will be made 11 months after signing deed of grant	Data downloaded at least fortnightly  Report finalised 12 months after signing of deed of grant.*
Report writing	Stuart Rae and Red Hill Regenerators	30 hours	10 hrs for Stuart Rae	11-12 months after signing of Deed	Report written

- Note a transmitter may have enough battery power to last for up to three years. The cost of downloading the data and any further writing in relation to this extended

information will not occur under this grant. The costs of continued work would be met outside of the ACT Environment grant process.

- The research team separately purchased three identical transmitters as those applied for under the grant for use on females for use on fledglings and adult males. If timing re receiving grant funding became problematic the existing trackers could be used on females and the same number of trackers purchased under the grant as employed on females could be swapped between projects.

#### Selection Criteria 4: Soundness of project budgeting and value for money

Instructions for Selection Criteria 4:

Your project budget must include the grant amount sought, and all other sources of funding, in-kind contributions, and volunteer and paid labour, to give a true value of the whole project.

In this section of your application, you must:

- Provide an itemised budget of all expenses and a justification of how the items of expenditure are calculated.
- Include all sources of funding, as well as any in-kind contributions to enable the full scope of the value of the project to be ascertained.
- All amounts are to be GST exclusive.
- General volunteer labour can be costed at \$33.71 per hour.
- Specialist labour can be costed at current average industry rates.
- A maximum rate of 10% of total grant funding sought may be attributed to administrative costs.

A budget plan template is available if you need it, from the Grants Coordinator by emailing [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au).

Item	Basis of costing	ACT Environment Grant funding	Applicant contribution	Other funding contribution	Total
4 x 22 gram GPS Solar Tracker	USD \$3,850 4x Aus \$5,400	\$21,600	-	-	\$21,600
Tracker download	4 x \$30 EU a	\$2,400	-	-	\$2,400

costs	month 4x A\$50 x 12				
Stuart Rae	\$100 x 60 hr	\$6,000	-	Funding on LE observation (including adult males + females and fledglings) 250 hrs \$25,000	\$31,000
RHR Regenerator observation survey, administration and report writing time	\$33.71 x 185 hr	-	\$6,236	-	\$6,236
Other team member observation, trapping, data downloading, data analysis	\$100 x 400 hr	-	-	\$40,000	\$40,000
<b>Totals</b>		\$30,000	\$6236	\$65,000	<b>\$101,236</b>



## Criteria 5: Level of community and stakeholder engagement

### Instructions for Selection Criteria 5:

In this section of your application, you must:

- a. List the groups and/or organisations you are partnering with
- b. Indicate what each partners is responsible for/contributing
- c. If your project includes Indigenous engagement you must provide:
  - i. Details of your proposed consultation process with the local Indigenous community and/or evidence of their support
- d. If your project involves any work in areas of cultural or heritage significance you must:
  - i. Notify ACT Heritage by emailing: [heritage@act.gov.au](mailto:heritage@act.gov.au) and seek their advice who will advise you on compliance with the Heritage Act 2004
  - ii. Obtain relevant documentation from ACT Heritage in support of your application. Note additional approvals may be required should your application be successful.
  - iii. Include evidence of authorisations and approvals as part of your project application.

For further assistance, contact the Grants Coordinator by emailing: [actnrm@act.gov.au](mailto:actnrm@act.gov.au)

Please type your statement below:

In addition to members of the Red Hill Regenerators, the project will utilise and encourage Little Eagle and Wedge-tailed Eagle sightings on Canberra Nature Map. To date there have been 100 Little Eagle and 151 Wedge-tailed Eagle sightings on Canberra Nature map.

The project team includes

Dr Stuart Rae – Environmental consultant who specialises in ornithology and has much experience studying raptors, including the Little Eagle and Golden Eagle. He has been a visiting fellow at the Magrath Group at the Research School of Biology at the Australian National University

Dr Penny Olsen – Australian raptor expert and visiting fellow at ANU

Dr Don Fletcher – Visiting fellow at Australian National University

Jacqui Stol - Senior Experimental Scientist CSIRO

Micah Davies – Senior Experimental Scientist CSIRO

David Roberts – Ginninderry Group

Claire Wimpenny – Fauna Ecologist, ACT Government



Dr Melissa Snape – Senior Ecologist ACT Government

Dr Renee Brawata – Project Officer ACT Government

Dr Michael Mulvaney – Senior Conservation Planner ACT Government (Dr Mulvaney will also volunteer weekend and out of hours time to the project as a Red Hill Regenerator)

Details of what each is contributing are detailed in the project plan. In summary, Stuart Rae is overseeing project. The Red Hill Regenerators are administrating the project and undertaking supervised observation and survey work and the other members of the team are providing technical input, and assisting in trapping, tracking and observation activities.



## Previous grants

Provide details of any other grants received from the ACT Government over the past three years, detailing the funding program, the project title, purpose of the project and the funded amount. Please indicate the status of these grants for example. Still underway, completed, completed and acquitted.

Please type your statement below:

The Red Hill Regenerators has not received any grants in the last three years but has successfully acquitted all of its six or more grants received over its 30-year history from either the ACT or Commonwealth governments.



## Certification by applicant or sponsor

This authorisation section should be signed by the chair or president of the organisation or group or an authorised representative. By signing and filling out the table below, you have certified that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Description	Information column
Organisation/Group/ Incorporated Body	ACT Red Hill Bush Regenerators (Red Hill Regenerators)
Name of authorised representative	Ross Kingsland
Position	President
Email	rossandsue@gmail.com
Phone Number	0415 256 951 or 02 6281 2813
Mailing address	15 Downes Place, Hughes
State	ACT
Postcode	2605
Signature	
Date	12 April 2019



## Checklist

### ***Before submitting your application please ensure that***

- You have completed all sections of the application form.
- The application is signed by the relevant signatory in accordance with your Organisation's/Sponsor's constitution.
- You have clearly marked and securely attached copies of the following documentation, if applicable to your project:
  - letters of support from stakeholders;
  - letters of support from project partners;
  - letter(s) of authorisation from the land owner/manager(s);
  - ACT Heritage support/agreement/documentation (if your project involves working on sites with cultural and/or heritage significance, or with indigenous Australians); and
  - risk assessment of project (refer to Section 2.1.1 in Application Information Pack)
  - Map or site coordinates for the specific area you intend to undertake your project.
- You have taken a copy of the completed application form for your own records.

If you are submitting a hardcopy application, please secure all pages of your application with a staple.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY**  
**AEST 5.00 PM Monday, 15 April 2019**