



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement

between the Commonwealth represented by

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

and

ACT Red Hill Bush Regenerators Incorporated

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Grant Agreement MSSPI000004

Once completed, this document, together with the Grant Details and the Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions (Schedule 1), forms an Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.

Grant Details MSSPI000004

A. Purpose of the Grant

The Grant is being provided as part of the Regional Bushfire Recovery for Multiregional Species and Strategic Projects Program grant opportunity.

The objectives of the program are to:

- deliver bushfire recovery actions in one or more of the seven priority bushfire impacted regions, that address the recovery of identified animal or plant species and/or ecological communities impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- enhance the recovery and maximise the resilience of threatened species, ecological communities and natural assets, such as Ramsar listed wetlands and World Heritage properties, within the seven regions identified as most impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires.

B. Activity

The Activity is made up of the Grantee's project and all eligible project activities as specified in these Grant Details.

Project title

Gang-gang recording and engagement app/platforms for citizen scientists

Project scope and description

The Project has been developed in three stages focusing on the improvement of the existing Naturemapr platforms and create and manage INaturalist projects. Both platforms will have specific gang-gang web interfaces to enable collection of consistent data across location, tree hollow, foraging, nest hollow and nest tube data points. The project will explore opportunities to enhance interactions and engagement with groups and individuals across the Cockatoo's range using the platforms.

Stage 1

- Setup and programming changes to existing Naturemapr platforms covering the NSW South Coast, The NSW Southern Highlands, Greater Sydney, Albury-Wodonga and the ACT and eight surrounding NSW Local Government Areas.
- A new hollow activity Gang-gang project will be created on INaturalist and the existing Hungry Parrot project will be edited and expanded.
- Both platforms will be utilised collect data for the entire range of the Gang-gang (including Kangaroo Island). It will also target collection of data by the existing 6,000 Naturemapr and 36,000 INaturalist Australian contributors.
- Enables recording of nesting hollow behaviours, foraging items being eaten, potential roosting

sites, and the location, gender and abundance of birds, together with date and author information and the ability to provide general sighting comments.

- It will allow project leaders to check images and edit and verify each recorded sighting. It will provide for direct private or public online conversations between all those involved in the project and allow all participants to access and comment on any of the recorded sightings or to receive email alerts or notifications of new Gang-gang sightings, within specified areas of interest.
- The Gang-gang Working Group members will be consulted on the particular questions that they want asked within the collection platforms.

Stage 2

- Creates a Naturemapr web interface for a standardised easily accessible collection of nest hollow and nest tube locations (points of interest), to which data on species and behaviours observed can be added to on multiple occasions, by multiple parties.
- Research leaders will be able to determine who has access to this hollow and nest box information including the Commonwealth funded projects in the Eurobodalla, Blue Mountains and out of the ACT.

Stage 3

- The data collection stage will involve technical and administrative support of users, as well as positive feedback from administrators and project leaders to citizen participants.
- Administrators or leaders of other Commonwealth Gang-gang projects will be able to download data whenever they wish.
- Involve active seeking through bird groups and other contacts of historic Gang-gang records and images and allow for bulk uploading of this data or photographic collection. It will allow participants to observe, download or be only focused on records from any particular State, Local Government, Google place name or other area of interest.
- Red Hill Regenerators (RHR) and other partners will analyse the existing Gang-gang image sightings (1250 images on Naturemapr, 880 on iNaturalist as of 19/7/21) for dietary information as well as review and collate existing dietary information from published sources and unpublished data. An example being the 367 recorded feeding observations in a 2015 report of the Canberra Ornithologist Group

During Stage 2 and 3, RHR and project partners (Canberra Ornithological Group) and possibly other members of the Gang-gang working group will contact bird and other environmental groups and government agencies across the Gang-gangs range and encourage and train these parties in use and value of the platforms and their behind the scenes administration. RHR will in consultation with Commonwealth officers and the Working group undertake or assist in a media campaign to raise awareness of the platforms existence and opportunity for anybody to be involved in Gang-gang research. The online Gang-gang interfaces will continue to run following completion of the project.

Project outcomes

Conservation projects will be supported with this platform and information will be received by the government organisations and research institutions that need to know about it. The data captured will assist comparison of Gang-gang distribution and abundance within and outside of burnt areas. The information will be vital to assist in the identification of habitat and potential breeding areas and is likely to help define the edges of the Gang-gangs range. For example, the extent of its occurrence following the fires on Kangaroo Island. Recorded sightings of feeding activity will also provide a list of plants and invertebrates eaten by Gang-gangs. The proportion that a particular food item is captured amongst all sightings will give an indication as to the relative importance and how this may differ across the birds range and time of year. The data can also be compared across different regions, within and outside of the breeding season and within specified distances of an active nest tree or occupied nest box.

Develop increased awareness and knowledge of important species through the sharing of knowledge within a thriving community. The project will bring groups together for data sharing and these citizen scientists will be able to interact with experts in real time. Involved contributors will feel an ownership of local Gang-gangs and are a key element for ongoing local Gang-gang conservation. For example, an initial Canberra based recording of observation study led to 57 families or individuals adopting the monitoring of 149 possible nest tree. Thirty-four nest trees were found and most continue to monitor “their” tree, taking actions such as alerting authorities to immature chicks on the ground (which were successfully placed back in a hollow), stopping the clearance of one tree, placing a possum guard around a nest tree which seemed prone to possum predation and removing significant weeds from the bases of nest trees.

In undertaking the Activity, the Grantee must comply with the requirements of the grant opportunity guidelines (as in force at the time of application).

The Grantee must notify the Commonwealth about events relating to the project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

C. Duration of the Grant

The Activity starts on 20 August 2021 and ends on 30 May 2022, which is the **Activity Completion Date**.

The Agreement ends on 06 November 2022 which is the **Agreement End Date**.

Activity Schedule

In undertaking the Activity, the Grantee will meet the following milestones by the due dates.

Milestone number	Milestone name and description	Due date
001	<p>Input received from Gang-gang Working Group members Advice received from Working Group and researchers/managers of other Commonwealth funded Gang-gang projects as to what particular information they want the web platforms to collect from citizen scientists re hollow behaviour, nest box behaviour, foraging or other specific information. This process has already begun and will be completed prior to the commencement of funding. This activity, although an important part of the project, has no cost and is thus not an actual part of the funding proposal.</p>	21/08/2021
002	<p>Set-up and tweaking of existing online interfaces Recording of Gang-gang sightings with a focus on hollow activity and foraging observations on existing Naturemapr platforms (ACT and all surrounding Local Government Area, Southern Highlands, South Coast, Greater Sydney and Albury -Wodonga) and via INaturalist projects.</p>	03/09/2021
003	<p>Naturemapr web interface for collection of nest hollow and nest tube data Point of Interest facility, allowing for multiple entries by different people and at different times, established across Naturemapr platforms. This will allow easy and standardised collection of data on what species are visiting hollows and nest tubes and the behaviour these species are undertaking.</p>	15/10/2021
004	<p>Recorded sightings of hollow activity At least 250 sightings recorded from at least three different bushfire affected regions of Gang-gang activity around hollows during the 2021-2022 breeding season. Recorded behaviour choices are likely to be activities likely to be; adults perched on or near a hollow; looking down a hollow; chewing bark around a hollow; entering, leaving or within a hollow; and feeding a chick(s) that is within the hollow entrance.</p>	28/02/2022
005	<p>Recorded sightings of foraging activity At least 2000 sightings recorded from across all bushfire affected regions in which the Gang-gang is known to occur. This includes identification of plant or invertebrate food item to at least the level of genus.</p>	30/05/2022

Milestone number	Milestone name and description	Due date
006	Uptake of platform interfaces by users Targeted approaches to community and environmental groups and Government agencies to utilise and encourage use of platform interfaces. Media articles and interviewed conducted (in conjunction with Working Group and Commonwealth). At least 100 contributors by end of September 2021 and 500 by end of May 2022	30/05/2022
007	Transfer of data to Government agencies and other interested parties Checking that all interested parties have accessed or received collated data. Provision of data if it has not already been obtained.	30/05/2022

D. Payment of the Grant

The total amount of the Grant is \$24,000 (plus GST if applicable).

The Grant will be provided at up to 91.25 per cent of eligible expenditure as defined in the grant opportunity guidelines subject to availability of Program funds.

The Grant will be paid in accordance with clause ST2.

The Grant will be paid according to the following schedule. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project and compliance by the Grantee with its obligations under this Agreement.

Payment event	Anticipated payment date	Payment amount (GST excl)
Initial payment	30/09/2021	\$24,000
Total		\$24,000