

Expression of interest

HUNTER LOCAL LAND SERVICES

HALLS CREEK CATCHMENT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM:

Post drought and flood priority weed and revegetation support on riverbanks

Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) are seeking expressions of interest (EOIs) from land managers in the Halls Creek and Giants Creek catchments to undertake on-ground riparian (stream/riverbank) enhancement works. These works aim to improve the condition and resilience of waterways in the catchment by addressing the loss of woody vegetation and associated decrease in riverbank stability and water quality, and increase in weed growth post drought and flood. This project is supported by a multi-year catchment health improvement program through a funding partnership with Glencore. Upper Hunter Weeds Authority are also providing support.

Eligible activities include:

- Weed control along the stream/river bank
- Infill planting within existing native vegetation areas along stream/riverbanks
- Revegetation (such as shelterbelts) in stream/riverbank corridors or other approved areas.

The project is prioritising the following weeds in the Halls Creek (and Giants Creek) catchment:

- Green cestrum
- Blue heliotrope
- Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*)
- Opuntoid species (such as Prickly pear and Tiger pear)
- Willow species

Successful applicants will be allocated professional contractor resources to undertake nominated works. This will be funded and coordinated by Hunter LLS. Contractors will also be available to provide best practice riparian management advice to landholders. Allocation of contractors will be determined on an individual basis, based on EOIs received and approval by Hunter LLS.

All successful applicants will be required to prepare and submit a weed management and/or revegetation plan prior to commencement of work

This project will not provide services for fencing, off-stream watering or works that have already been funded through an existing funding agreement with LLS or CMA.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for support, projects must meet the following criteria:

- Project site must be located within the Halls Creek (including Giants Creek) catchment
- Proposals must be for control of the listed priority weeds or revegetation using local native species only
- Stock must be excluded from the project area with temporary or permanent fencing (or evidence provided that it will be fenced out) *
- Applicant must develop and implement a property weed management plan or revegetation plan (or both) prior to works commencing (to be developed with the assistance of Hunter LLS)

- Applicant must have completed all works, including reporting or monitoring, for any previously funded projects with Hunter LLS
- Proposed works must not already be required to be undertaken under an existing project or project maintenance clause
- Applicant must be willing to enter an access agreement with Hunter LLS to authorise contractor and staff access
- Applicant must be willing to monitor and maintain project works for a 3-year period following completion (including ongoing weed suppression, stock exclusion, maintain 70% survival of plants)
- The proposed activities must be consistent with local, NSW and Australian government regulations and legislation
- Applicant must hold \$10 million public liability insurance
- Applicant must have paid all Hunter LLS financial obligations
- All proposed works must be completed by 30 November 2022 (or otherwise agreed timeframe)

*If landholders are interested in seeking financial support for fencing, please discuss this with Hunter LLS staff and note this within your submission as there are limited funds available.

Assessment process

This expression of interest form does not guarantee funding allocation. All submissions will be reviewed and prioritised against the following criteria:

- Density and type of weeds present
- Evidence of previous weed control attempts (or new incursion of a weed)
- Presence and diversity of existing native riparian vegetation
- Evidence of natural regeneration of native riparian species
- Density of groundcover
- Presence/absence of bare soil, bank instability or areas of erosion
- Overall condition and connectivity of riparian asset

All proponents will receive notification from Hunter LLS on the outcome of their application. Hunter LLS will liaise with successful applicants and contractors to coordinate on-ground works.

How to apply?

To apply, complete this expression of interest form and email it to catherine.conroy@lls.nsw.gov.au or mail to:

Attn: Halls Creek Riparian Enhancement EOI
PO Box 250
Scone NSW 2337

Submissions should be supported with a map and photos of the project site. These should be uploaded to Attachments A and B in this form. Alternatively, you may send these via email with your application form or via text message to 0427 578 937 with your name and a description of the photo.

Details provided in the form may be verified by an on-site inspection by Hunter LLS staff.

Applications close on Monday 21 March 2022.

For further information on the project, to obtain a hard copy EOI form or for assistance with mapping, please contact Catherine Conroy on 0427 578 937.

Expression of interest form

Please download this form to your computer and complete the relevant sections. Once completed, save as “Halls Creek application –surname” and submit via email or mail (see details on page two).








Applicant details

Applicant name:	
Landowner name: <i>(if different to above)</i>	
Postal address:	
Project address: <i>(if different to above)</i>	
Phone number:	
Email:	

Project details

What activities are you seeking support for? Select all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Weed control along my creek bank <input type="checkbox"/> Revegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Please provide a brief overview of your project. Include details of what you are proposing to do, why and what you hope to achieve.		
Proposed project area (ha):		
Have you previously undertaken riparian protection or similar works in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Provide details (including the year and any funding received from CMA, LLS or other source):	<input type="checkbox"/> No

<p>Is your project located on the stream or riverbank of Halls or Giants Creek?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>
<p>Is your project area fenced from stock? This includes permanent and temporary fencing.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet but intend to <input type="checkbox"/> No stock present</p>
<p>Do you have off-stream stock watering installed?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet but intend to <input type="checkbox"/> No stock present</p>
<p>Has your property been impacted by flood or drought since 2019?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Drought <input type="checkbox"/> Flood <input type="checkbox"/> Not impacted</p>
<p>If you answered yes above, what damage/loss have you observed:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Bank erosion <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of native trees and shrubs (death or disease) <input type="checkbox"/> New weeds/weeds not previously seen on property <input type="checkbox"/> Damage to riverbank fencing/ off-stream watering infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>
<p>Weed control questions This section asks a series of questions related to weed control. If you are not applying for weed control support, please skip this section.</p>	
<p>Which weeds are of most concern in your project area? Select all that apply.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Blue heliotrope <input type="checkbox"/> Green cestrum <input type="checkbox"/> Spiny rush <input type="checkbox"/> Opuntoid species <input type="checkbox"/> Willow species <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>

<p>Please indicate the approximate overall density of weeds present that you are seeking support for. You may use the pictures as a guide.</p>	<p>A.  C. </p> <p>B.  D. </p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A. 5% or less (sparsely growing on riverbank)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B. 10% (growing in small, isolated clumps or patches or only scattered spread along riverbank)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C. 30% (moderate patches of weeds present)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D. 50% or more (dense patches of weeds or significant spread along the riverbank and adjoining land)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>		
<p>Please provide a brief description of any previous weed control efforts in your project area and how effective these have been (e.g. annual spraying with herbicide, hand chipping, no action taken to date)</p>			
<p>Revegetation questions</p> <p>This section will ask a series of questions related to revegetation and infill planting. If you are not applying for planting support, please skip this section.</p>			
<p>What type of revegetation support are you seeking?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Infill /enhancement plantings along riverbanks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shelterbelt plantings along/adjoining the riverbank or connecting to nearby native vegetation stands</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>		
<p>Which photo best reflects the condition of your existing riparian vegetation?</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stream banks are well vegetated with a mix of native species including trees, shrubs and grasses.</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Some native vegetation along the stream. Understorey species, such as shrubs may be absent.</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Little or no native vegetation present.</p>

<p>Are you aware of any natural regeneration of native species occurring on the stream or riverbank? This question refers to native species only.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>
<p>Do you have areas of bare ground or active erosion along your stream or riverbank?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p>

Conflict of interest

Outline any conflict of interest which you may have with Hunter LLS, including any staff. Should a conflict exist, either perceived or real, you must submit a conflict of interest declaration form with your application. Contact Hunter LLS to obtain a form if needed.

Declaration and signature

Before signing, please ensure your application is complete and all details are correct. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The information provided in this form will be reviewed, and if eligible you will be contacted to progress a project with us, including development of relevant plans, access deeds and coordination of work.

I,

Name of landholder submitting this form (please print)

as the applicant, confirm that all details outlined in this application are true and correct

Signature of landholder

Date

Attachment A. Map of proposed works

To insert a map, click on the empty box below. A 'select image' image toolbar should appear. Navigate to the relevant document and double click on it. Your map should then appear in the box below. An LLS project officer can assist in the development of a map if required.



Attachment B. Supporting photos of project site

Please add supporting photos of your project site by clicking on the boxes below and navigating to the relevant photos file on your computer. Please provide a brief description of the photo in the text field.

Click to enter photo	Click to enter photo
Click to enter photo	Click to enter photo