

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) response to the Natural Resource Commission evaluation of the Council Roadside Reserves project – Linear Reserves Program grant.

#	Natural Resource Commission recommendations	Local Government NSW response (Optional)
1.	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) for future projects, the Environmental Trust should ensure that site assessment methods designed by proponents appropriately stratify and prioritise the sites for conservation investment and make clear how assessments will contribute to on-ground conservation outcomes.</p>	<p>Relevant to Local Land Services and Travelling Stock Reserves project.</p>
2.	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) for future projects, the Environmental Trust should ensure that when site assessments inform management actions, that proponents specify what resources, capabilities and funds are required to deliver the on-ground conservation work.</p>	<p>Relevant to Local Land Services and Travelling Stock Reserves project.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) when considering project applications that may be contingent on unknown future funding (such as the amount of future funding LLS may receive for managing TSRs), The Environmental Trust should assess, based on an assessment from the grantee, to what extent the project objectives are dependent upon additional external funding and the consequences to the project if that funding is not obtained.</p>	<p>Relevant to Local Land Services and Travelling Stock Reserves project.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) future Environmental Trust investment in identifying new funding mechanisms for land managers should be informed by detailed risk assessments focussed on potential future funding options for the project.</p>	<p>Relevant to Local Land Services and Travelling Stock Reserves project.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) future Environmental Trust projects with significant investment in training should consider how to deliver long-term impact in light of the risks of high levels of staff turnover.</p>	<p>LGNSW have addressed this through the development of free on-line training hosted on the LGNSW website. Councils could opt to include this as part of staff inductions for relevant employees.</p> <p>These training modules are being accessed and we do receive ongoing enquiries on these. Our google analytics show 638 page views (258 unique page views) on the Council Roadside Reserve training modules from 1/1/22 to 31/12/2022.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) Local Government NSW should continue to promote the use by councils of the published Council Roadside Environmental Management Framework and other resources developed under the CRR project to support the ongoing integration of roadside reserve management into council process and IP&R systems.</p>	<p>All materials developed through the grant are available on our website. We continue to see interest in these resources.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) for future devolved grants programs, the Environmental Trust should support the grantee to ensure the project business plans articulate how project outputs, such as templates and other tools, cater for the needs of different end users.</p>	<p>The report identifies the challenge of developing resources to meet the needs of a diverse range of councils with a wide range of capabilities. This is an ongoing challenge when working with local government, however, identifying the needs and capacities of the target audience is important and needs investment to ensure appropriately designed and targeted resources are developed.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>The Natural Resources Commission recommends that:</p> <p>a) the Environmental Trust should ensure high risk components of each project are sufficiently described and supported by risk assessments and planning in project business plans. (This recommendation links to Recommendation 4).</p>	<p>No further comment.</p>