



THAMARRURR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

Terms of Reference – Environmental Audit

Environmentally sustainable practice can be a low priority for organisations in remote areas where socio-economic issues and challenges dominate the agenda. However, in the past 3 years, Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC) and the Wadeye Community have proven their commitment to environmental sustainability by taking on a number of re-use and recycling opportunities, and also demonstrated the socio-economic benefits of these opportunities to the Community. TDC is seeking to consolidate and build on these efforts through an environmental audit process.

Thamarrurr Development Corporation - Overview

Thamarrurr Development Corporation Ltd is a not-for-profit corporate entity owned by members of the Wangka, Lirrga and Tjanpa peoples of the Port Keats Daly River Aboriginal Land Trust. TDC has been established by the 21 clans of the Thamarrurr Region, to represent them in relation to business, socio-economic development, employment and training. TDC employs over 160 people, with ~70% being local Indigenous people, and delivers the following services:

- Land and sea management through the Thamarrurr Rangers;
- Employment and training services through the 'Community Development Program';
- Construction and maintenance of commercial, residential and infrastructure facilities;
- Provision of short-term accommodation, meals and catering via TDC Village;
- Service station and mechanical workshop;
- Local Post Office;
- Local Broadcasting service;
- Museum and Cultural programs;
- Support for Business incubation and Homelands development.

TDC recognizes the significant natural and cultural values in the Thamarrurr Region where it operates, and the importance of environmentally sustainable practice to help protect these values. In addition, TDC recognizes the potential socio-economic benefits associated with environmentally sustainable practice, including reducing wastage and costs to the organization, and developing opportunities for re-use and recycling that provide jobs and income for the Community.

Project Background and Need

Thamarrurr Development Corporation, as the lead community organisation representing the Traditional Owners of the Thamarrurr Region, has identified the need for this Project. Some work

has already begun by TDC and the Wadeye Community towards environmentally sustainable practice. This Project seeks to consolidate and build on this work, addressing 3 main needs:

1. Protect the environment and minimize the environmental impact of the organization.

The Thamarrurr Region is located in the western 'Top End' of the Northern Territory, in the Tropical Savannas Region. It incorporates approximately 18,000 sq km of relatively intact landscapes, including a 240km coastline where sea turtles lay their eggs along the dunes of the expansive beaches. The Moyle River and floodplain provide important habitat for migratory birds, breeding grounds for fish, turtles and crocodiles, and food for grazing animals. Melaleuca and mangrove forests encompass abundant life in the wetland ecosystems, including thousands of geese, other birds and fish. The more elevated savannah and open woodlands are dominated by eucalypts, cycads and native grasses, providing habitat to arboreal mammals and birds.

The Traditional Owners of the Thamarrurr Region are spiritually linked to their land. The Region encompasses homelands for 21 clan groups, with thousands of cultural sites, including ceremony and sacred sites, rock art and stone arrangements, recreational places, and associated heritage and cultural values. In addition, the land provides food and other resources, with Traditional Owners having rights and responsibilities to their Country.

In this context of significant natural and cultural values, TDC acknowledges the importance of protecting the environment and minimizing the environmental impact of the organization. This may include minimizing adverse effects from infrastructure development, vehicle usage and general operations, such as poor drainage, erosion, spread of weeds, carbon emissions and other effects on the local environment and wildlife. TDC seeks to promote environmental awareness across the organization, and a "reduce, reuse and recycling" approach.

2. Reduce wastage and associated costs in the organization.

TDC operates a number of different services in the Thamarrurr Region, as outlined above, with office and work spaces at Wadeye, and a central Business Services office in Darwin. Different degrees of wastage and environmental impact occur through general operations, indiscriminate procurement, wastage of paper and other regular supplies, waste disposal, power and water usage. TDC seeks to clearly identify and reduce this wastage and associated costs across the organization.

TDC's Mens Shed is currently being established, with a proposal to install a grid connected solar system to this building to partially offset electricity costs. In addition to the economic benefit, this will provide an opportunity for capacity building within TDC in regard to the process for installation and operation of solar electricity. It will also be utilised for community education purposes around renewable energy and environmental sustainability, with interest from the Rangers, Youth Group and School.

3. Develop opportunities for re-use and recycling at Wadeye.

In 2015, *Tangaroa Blue* visited Wadeye and supported Thamarrurr Rangers to run a Community Meeting about waste reduction and develop a Source Reduction Plan (SRP). The Thamarrurr SRP notes the desire for a coordinated approach to find solutions for improved waste management and a cleaner Community and Country. One of the main strategies identified was starting a recycling

project at Wadeye, to reduce litter and landfill, create potential income opportunities, and empower the Community to do something constructive about the rubbish problem.

After much discussion and research, Thamarrurr Rangers established a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Collection Point in 2016. Local people were invited to bring down their empty beverage containers every Friday, and the Rangers count, sort and pay people directly (.10c / item). The figures speak for themselves, with over 350,000 containers in 2016 and over 400,000 containers in 2017 being recycled back to Darwin, and the Community embracing the opportunity to recycle. The local Murin freight company provide free freight by back-loading the barge / truck from Wadeye to Darwin, and other local organisations have also provided support with collecting recycling. Bevcon Recycling in Darwin collect the CDS items from Murin Depot and pay the refund back to TDC.

Thamarrurr Rangers continue to operate the CDS Collection Point, with ongoing community support. In addition, Rangers offer a car battery recycling service with \$3 / battery refund, and recycle empty chemical containers. The local TDC Post Office recycles printer cartridges. Thamarrurr Housing and Construction team have initiated a re-use program with building materials and also recycled some aluminium back to Darwin. TDC seeks to build on this momentum for waste management and re-use / recycling at Wadeye, and further empower the Community to do something constructive about the rubbish problem. TDC acknowledges that there are many creative opportunities for local re-use / recycling, with associated environmental, social and economic benefits.

Key Objectives

Thamarrurr Development Corporation would like to engage and work with an environmental consultant to address the following objectives:

- An environmental audit across TDC, to identify environmental issues and gaps in current operations including:
 - Business Services and Administration
 - Accommodation Services
 - Housing and Construction
 - Mechanical Services
 - Land and Sea Management
 - Employment and Training
 - Other TDC services

- Make recommendations for environmentally sustainable practice, including:
 - Environmentally sustainable procurement
 - Use of paper and other regular supplies
 - Meeting supplies – plates, cups, etc.
 - Waste disposal / management
 - Managing waste from barge and other freight
 - Power and water usage / technologies
 - Green spaces at Wadeye / use of TDC Nursery

- Local erosion control
- Other recommendations
- Assess re-use and recycling opportunities at Wadeye, and identify options and processes that can be further developed, including:
 - CDS beverage containers
 - Car bodies and parts - scrap metal, batteries, tyres, etc.
 - Waste oils and fuels
 - Soft plastics
 - Office supplies - paper, printer cartridges, etc.
 - Housing and construction materials
 - Other recommendations
- Identify strategies to raise awareness regarding environmentally sustainable practice, and a "reduce, re-use, recycling" approach. TDC acknowledges that this needs to be a whole of community approach, with any strategies developed with and linked to the local community and other service organisations.

Key Deliverables

The Environmental Consultant will be required to work with TDC Managers and other staff to undertake the environmental audit and produce a user friendly report addressing the objectives:

- Identify environmental issues and gaps in current operations / processes;
- Make recommendations for environmentally sustainable practice and technologies;
- Assess re-use and recycling opportunities at Wadeye, and identify options and processes that can be further developed;
- Identify strategies to raise awareness regarding environmentally sustainable practice within TDC and more broadly across the community.

The Consultant's report should also identify priorities and costs involved. This will include recommendations that have minimal financial cost to implement, but rather involve changes in TDC practice and staff training. Other recommendations will require varying levels of investment, and should be prioritised and addressed accordingly. TDC will be able to make some small investments, while larger investments will involve looking for further funding, including NTG and Australian Government Program funds and other non-government opportunities for financial support. The Consultant will identify some of these funding opportunities for the Region.

Expertise of the Consultant

1. Minimum qualifications of a Bachelor degree in an environmental field.
2. Experience in similar environmental audits, preferably in remote locations.
3. Experience in undertaking environmental works in Indigenous communities.
4. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
5. An innovative approach to environmental sustainability.

Location

The physical audit will take place at Wadeye, NT, ~45 minutes flight from Darwin, as well as a visit to the TDC Darwin office. The successful candidate will be required to do preliminary preparation prior to the physical audit, and final documentation and reporting following the audit at their own work location.

Fee for Service and other Expenses

Interested individuals or groups are to submit a fee for service proposal for this consultancy. This will include:

- Preparation prior to the audit;
- Approximately 5 days at Wadeye to undertake the physical audit;
- Final documentation / reporting;
- Provision of own work station IT requirements and mobile phone access;
- Provision of own meals and incidentals, except for below.

TDC will cover the following expenses:

- Travel to and from Wadeye, via Darwin;
- Accommodation over the audit period in Wadeye, including morning and evening meals;
- Accommodation in Darwin for 1-2 nights if required.

Documentation required to evaluate Proposals

Interested parties should submit their Proposal by 2nd July 2018, including:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Organizational profile of consultancy agency;
3. CV/s of consultant/s detailing core competencies and relevant work experience;
4. Contact information for 2 referees;
5. A Proposal (max 6 pages) indicating timeline, approach, methodologies, resources, etc.
6. Fee structure indicating daily rate and other additional consultancy expenses.

Following receipt of above documents, the successful applicant will be hired by phone and email confirmation. Relevant documents will be provided by TDC and discussions pertaining to dates of conducting the physical audit will be negotiated, as will the final submission date of key deliverables.

Please address Proposals and any queries to:

Melissa Bentivoglio

Community Development

Thamarrurr Development Corporation

Melissa.bentivoglio@thamarrurr.org.au

Ph: 08 8941 1111 / 0437 389264