

Expression of interest

HUNTER LOCAL LAND SERVICES

BOX-GUM GRASSY WOODLAND WEED CONTROL:

Expression of interest for weed control in Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands on the Merriwa Plateau

Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) are seeking expressions of interest (EOIs) from land managers with remnant Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands (BGGW) on their properties to undertake targeted weed control works. BGGW is critically endangered nationally and in NSW, having been reduced to only 5% of its original range in NSW. This project aims to improve the condition and resilience of remnant BGGW by reducing weed threats and promoting regeneration of native species. The project is targeting areas within the Merriwa Plateau which contain remnant BGGW. This project is supported by a multi-year weed action plan with funding from MACH Energy.

Eligible activities include:

- Weed control in remnant Box-Gum Grassy Woodland
- Small-scale revegetation to protect or enhance existing remnant vegetation, or link areas of remnant vegetation to improve connectivity.

The project is prioritising the following weeds on the Merriwa Plateau:

- Fireweed
- Patersons curse
- Opuntoid species (Prickly pear, Tiger pear etc)
- Honey locust
- African olive
- Coolatai grass
- Blackberry
- Spiny burr grass
- Green cestrum
- African boxthorn
- St Johns Wort
- Blue heliotrope
- Noogoora burr

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 weed 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, farm infrastructure, capital equipment 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 within the Merriwa plateau
- Project site must contain remnant BGGW
- Proposals must be for the listed priority weeds or revegetation/planting using local native species only
- Where revegetation is proposed, stock must be excluded from the project site 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)

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 BGGW vegetation
- Evidence of natural regeneration of BGGW species
- 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: BGGW Weed Control 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 Friday 22 April 2022.

For further information on the project, or to obtain a hard copy EOI form, 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 “BGGW weed control –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 <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 weed control, revegetation 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>Do you have remnant Box-Gum Grassy Woodland in your project area?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure		
<p>Which photo best reflects the condition of Box-Gum Grassy Woodland in your project area?</p>			
<p>Do you actively manage the Box-Gum Grassy Woodland on your property (e.g. cool burns, grazing management, weed control)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure		
	<p>If you answered yes above, please provide further details:</p>		
<p>Do you have a grazing or weed management plan for your property? Select all that apply.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grazing plan <input type="checkbox"/> Weed management plan <input type="checkbox"/> Neither <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet but intend to <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<p>Is your project area fenced from stock? This includes permanent and temporary fencing.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet but intend to <input type="checkbox"/> No stock present		
<p>Has your property been impacted by flood or drought since 2019?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Drought <input type="checkbox"/> Flood <input type="checkbox"/> Not impacted		

<p>If you answered yes above, what damage/loss have you observed:</p>	<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"/> Increased erosion <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<p>Weed control questions</p> <p>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>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fireweed <input type="checkbox"/> Paterson's curse <input type="checkbox"/> Opuntoid species (e.g. Prickly pear, Tiger pear) <input type="checkbox"/> Honey locust <input type="checkbox"/> African Olive <input type="checkbox"/> Coolatai grass <input type="checkbox"/> Blackberry	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiny burr grass <input type="checkbox"/> Green cestrum <input type="checkbox"/> African boxthorn <input type="checkbox"/> St Johns Wort <input type="checkbox"/> Blue heliotrope <input type="checkbox"/> Noogoora burr <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5% or less (very sparse) <input type="checkbox"/> 10% (scattered; growing in small, isolated clumps or patches) <input type="checkbox"/> 30% (moderate patches of weeds present) <input type="checkbox"/> 50% or more (dense patches of weeds or significant spread) <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<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>		

Revegetation questions	
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.	
What type of revegetation support are you seeking?	<input type="checkbox"/> Paddock trees <input type="checkbox"/> Infill /enhancement plantings <input type="checkbox"/> Shelterbelt planting or similar <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Are you aware of any natural regeneration of native species? This question refers to native species only.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you have areas of bare ground or active erosion in your project area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure

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)

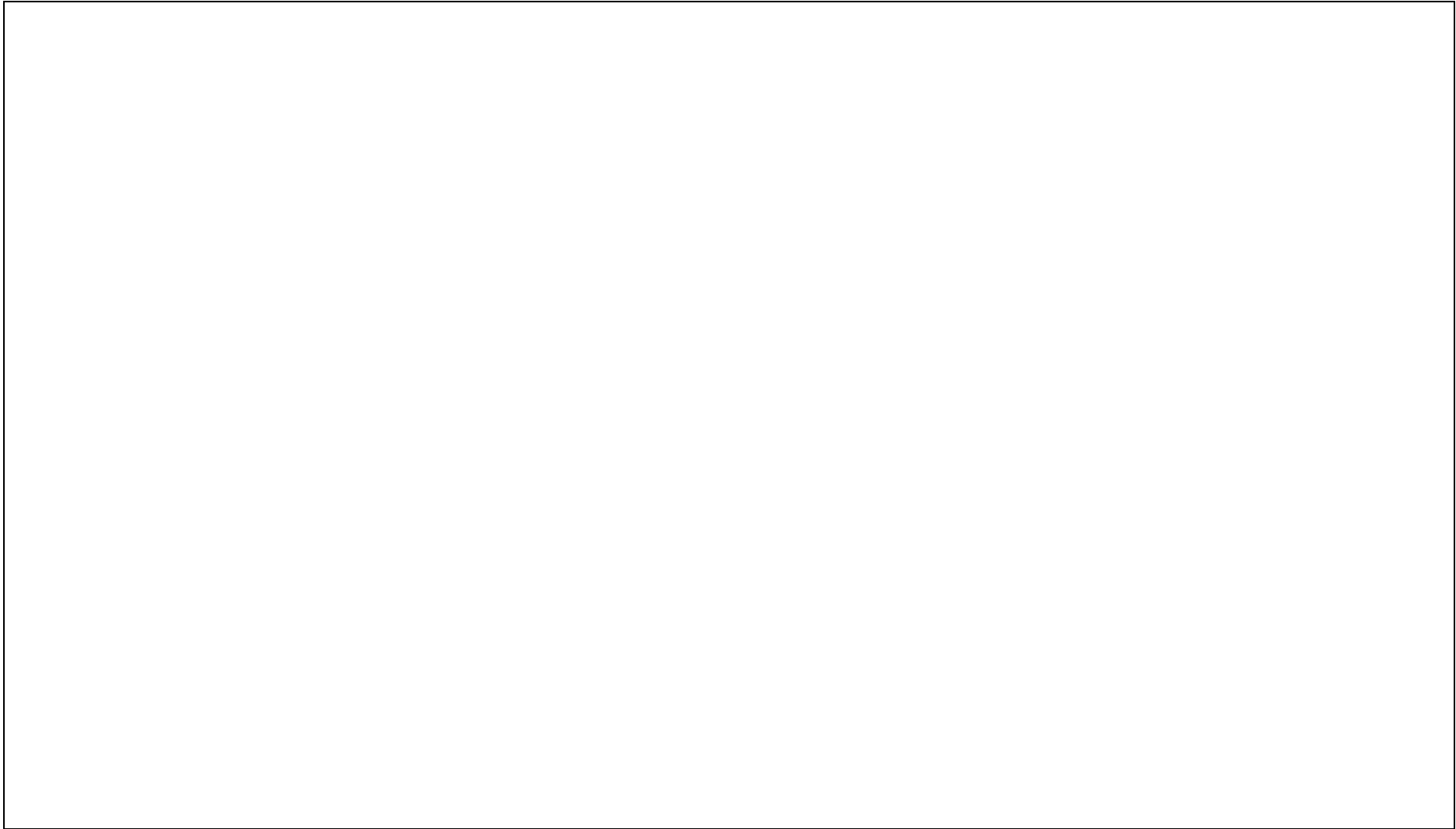
as the applicant, confirm that all details outlined in this application are true and correct

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.
