

MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION

Contractors Brief

Mirrool Creek Biodiversity Restoration Project

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Mirrool Creek is the main natural drainage system in the MIA. Its headwaters start east of Ardlethan in the Temora hills and flows in a generally westward direction passing south of Griffith before dispersing over the Mirrool Creek floodplain. In the eastern extremity of the catchment (upper catchment), the creek is well defined but loses definition downstream of Barellan. Within the MIA, Mirrool Creek has been highly modified through a series of artificially constructed channels that are adjacent to the original flow path.

The Mirrool Creek system provides Murrumbidgee Irrigation with a conduit for both supply and drainage with approximately 85% of drainage from the MIA entering the creek before ending up at Barren Box Storage and Wetland. In 1999, two reports were completed assessing the health and other related issues of Mirrool Creek. The results outlined the poor health of Mirrool Creek in the MIA and the need to make improvements to maintain water quality and the required flow rates. Following on from these reports MI developed a project to improve the flow in Mirrool Creek to improve the ability of MI to deliver water to Barren Box Storage and Wetland, Mirrool Creek pumpers and downstream users. Additionally, the project aims to deliver improved biodiversity outcomes through the creation of a healthy biodiversity and native vegetation corridor through the centre of the MIA.

Mirrool Creek comprises of a combination of crown and freehold land (Figure 1). Under the Water Management Act 2000, MI is the owner of and responsible for the management and maintenance of water supply and drainage infrastructure associated with Mirrool Creek.



Figure 1: Land tenure along Mirrool Creek in the MIA

On July 4 2008, The Hon. Tony Kelly, Minister for Lands, Minister for Rural Affairs and Minister for Regional Development gazetted all crown lands of Mirrool Creek between the main canal and Barren Box Storage and Wetland (including Little Mirrool Creek), a crown reserve for rural purposes with MI appointed as trustee for the reserved land.

With this change, MI will now manage the ongoing care of Mirrool Creek including integrated maintenance, water management, management of leases, and environmental management. This means all crown lands within Mirrool Creek will come under one management arrangement allowing for more effective water management and environmental restoration.

The purpose of this brief is to describe the activities required to undertake a revegetation program in accordance with the Mirrool Creek Reserve Trust Property Vegetation Plan. Rehabilitation will occur over a five year period from 2010 to 2015.

2.0 PROJECT DETAILS

2.1 Project Description

Murrumbidgee Irrigation through the efforts of MIA EnviroWise has a long term objective to improve the biodiversity and condition of the landscape and vegetation in the areas of operation of Murrumbidgee Irrigation.

A Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) is being developed for Mirrool and Little Mirrool Creek Reserve Trust which will guide the rehabilitation of the natural vegetation community through the reintroduction of native species, management of invasive weeds and the coordination of strategic grazing.

The restoration of Mirrool and Little Mirrool Creek Reserve Trust will involve fencing to control stock; ground preparation prior to planting including deep ripping, cultivation and weed control; and the reintroduction of local native species through a combination of direct seeding and tubestock planting.

Tenderers for this project may tender for one component of the restoration project such as the fencing component or may tender for the complete project.

2.2 Project Objectives

The objective of the Mirrool Creek Restoration Project is to re-establish local native wetland and terrestrial species appropriate to selected areas of the creek and in accordance with the Mirrool Creek Reserve Trust Property Vegetation Plan.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORKS

The following scope of works is proposed to meet the objectives of the project:

- Attend a project commencement meeting with MI to refine the project detail and provide advice on site specific management.
- Provide MI with a site specific plan and quote outlining all costs involved to meet the project requirements.
- In consultation with the Mirrool Creek PVP Officer, complete fencing, ground preparation, weed control, direct seeding, tubestock planting and watering of plants as outlined in the PVP contract and no later than 2015.
- For the ground preparation and revegetation components of the restoration project supply to MI a detailed report outlining date of works or sowing, weather conditions on date of sowing, site description, soil condition, soil moisture, ground preparation or planting methodology and site photos after each sowing application.

4.0 TIMETABLE

| Item | Date |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Tender received | 25 February 2010 |
| Attend project commencement meeting | From 4 March 2010 |
| MI PVP Officer to introduce contractor/s to the site | From 4 March 2010 |
| Identify Target species | April 2010 |
| Fence/ground prep/direct seed/tubestock plant in consultation with MI PVP Officer | In consultation with PVP officer |
| Complete restoration project | 2015 |

5.0 BUDGET

Your proposal is to include a detailed budget costing and is to include time allocation on each component to complete the scope of works.

6.0 PROJECT DURATION

The project is to commence no later than April 2010 and be completed by Spring 2015

7.0 TENDERS

Expressions of interest should be brief and include the following information:

- i. Relevant experience including referees which can be contacted.
- ii. An outline of how the required tasks would be approached.
- iii. A Work Plan showing the sequence of the tasks to be undertaken and their respective timeframes and linkages;
- iv. A detailed costing for the project showing:
 - The cost for each task,
 - Daily rate and hours of input for each team member for each task. These rates will be used to assess the value of any variations to the project and contract,
 - Travel and related costs for each task, and
- v. A list of measurable milestones and an associated payment schedule;
- vi. A clear indication of who the contracting organisation will be and the name(s) of any sub-contracting organisation to be used on the project;

8.0 TENDER ASSESSMENT

The following criteria will be used to assess and rank tenders:

- i. Ability of the proposed methodology to meet the project objectives, scope of works and outcomes.
- ii. Demonstrated skill and experience of the team;
- iii. Capacity to deliver the project objectives and products within the timeframe; and
- iv. Value for money.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation may choose not to accept the lowest priced or any tender.

9.0 FINALISING THE CONTRACT

Once the preferred tenderer has been selected, any issues requiring clarification will be discussed with that tenderer. If agreement is reached, this tenderer would then become the recommended tenderer. If agreement cannot be reached with that tenderer, the Company may negotiate with the next best tenderer.

The recommended tenderer will then attend a Project Start-up meeting with the Company to outline the proposed project methodology, timeframes and team responsibilities.

Contracts will then be exchanged with the successful tenderer.

10.0 TIMING OF SUBMISSIONS

Tenders should be forwarded to:

Attn: Tender Box
Mirrool Creek Restoration Project
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited
PO Box 492
Griffith NSW 2680

Submissions should be received no later than 2.30pm, 25 February 2010.

All queries should be directed through Karen McCann, Biodiversity/Wetlands Officer, Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 6962 0200 or 0428 660 866.

No submissions delivered later than the date/time set out above will be considered to be a conforming tender.