2025-2026 ACT Environmental Grants Program; Application No. ENV2025_2600003 From Friends of Mount Majura ParkCare Group (FoMM); Form Submitted 6 Jul 2025.

Tell us about yourself or the purpose or aims of your non incorporated organisation and of your sponsor organisation.

Applicant: Friends of Mount Majura (FoMM) is a volunteer ParkCare group working to protect the natural environment of Mount Majura and its surroundings. FoMM's objectives for the Mt Majura nature reserve include encouraging greater awareness and understanding of its natural heritage values; cooperating with government agencies in its sustainable management; identifying threats to its natural heritage values and seeking remedies; organising activities including working parties, public talks and walks; encouraging use and enjoyment of the reserve consistent with its natural heritage values.

Sponsor: The Molonglo Conservation Group (MCG) stands for a healthy environment for everyone's future. The group facilitates, designs and delivers best practice interconnected and adaptive natural resource and landscape management programs. The group engages communities and collaborates with government and other organisations to raise awareness and implement practical initiatives with positive outcomes. MCG puts forward evidence based solutions and innovative ideas for how we can live in harmony with the natural world.

Project title: Supporting The Fair Weed Management Plan 2024-2029; Enhancing ecological condition and connectivity of woodlands, grasslands and/or aquatic ecosystems.

Merit Criteria 1: Tell us how your project aligns with the selected funding priorities

The proposed project supports a Weed Management Plan 2024-2029 for The Fair at the Mount Majura Nature Reserve (the Management Plan) by the Office of Nature Conservation (ONC) to control St John's Wort and the invasive grasses African Lovegrass, Chilean Needlegrass, Sweet Vernal Grass and Serrated Tussock in an area of critically endangered Grassy Woodlands on Mt Majura's northwest slopes.

We seek funding to continue the implementation of weed control actions guided by the Management Plan.The project area is a dynamic system driven by seasonal change, herbivore (over) grazing, loss of native and introduction of new species, and a vast weed seed bank accumulated over decades. The hard work of volunteers over the past twelve years, Landscape Restoration Project work by ONC and coordinated weed control by ONC, Park & Conservation Service (P&CS) and Friends of Mt Majura ParkCare volunteers (FoMM), previously supported by ENV2024-25_00001 is beginning to tip the balance towards a diverse grassy woodland.

The project area includes critically endangered Yellow Box/Apple Box and Blakely's RedGum/Yellow Box tall grassy woodland declared under Commonwealth and ACT legislation, habitat for rare and endangered species, and sites with an exceptional variety and prevalence of native ground-covers, including orchids.

We request funding to continue the collaborative, coordinated and professionally guided work by the P&CS, ONC and ParkCare volunteers to contain and reduce StJW and transformer grass weeds. We also request funding for a display board to showcase the ecological assets and the results of conservation work at The Fair.

Background: The Fair site is a rehabilitation, soil improvement and revegetation project that started in 2013 and continues to be managed by FoMM volunteers. In 2024/2025 conservation work was

supported by an ONC Landscape Restoration Project and by an ACT Environment Grant (ENV2024-2025_00001). The most significant outcome of this support was that for the first time in over 20 years conservation volunteer work was guided by professional conservation expertise through ONC and led to an unusual and highly recommended coordination between ONC, P&CS and volunteer work. This coordination resulted not only in efficient weed control shared by P&CS employed contractors and by FoMM volunteers, but also in weed control experiments run by ONC staff and FoMM volunteers, including low intensity burns and the use of black plastic sheet covers to suppress Sweet Vernal grass, followed by direct seeding.

How the project addresses the Funding Priorities: The project will support continuing control actions in the project area as outlined in the Management Plan, thus ensuring the effective and coordinated control of St John's Wort and transformer grasses by both FoMM volunteers and P&CS. It will protect the native plant communities that have been re-established by volunteer work, reduce threats to biodiversity by controlling invasive species and thus will be enhancing the condition and connectivity of woodlands and grasslands. In addition, FoMM will continue to contribute to Citizen Science projects such as Canberra Nature Mapr and to Biosecurity through weed monitoring and weed control activities recorded on Field Maps.

Merit Criteria 2: Feasibility and effectiveness of your project

The problem: The project area is a dynamic system driven by seasonal change, herbivore (over) grazing, loss of native and introduction of new species, and a vast soil seed bank which accumulated over decades from uncontrolled weeds. The hard work of volunteers over the past ten years is beginning to tip the balance towards a diverse grassy woodland that is attractive for local wildlife and human visitors alike. However, to secure this gain, persistent, effective and coordinated management of St John's Wort and other transformer weeds is required.

How the project will help address this problem: Until very recently, weed control by FoMM volunteers has received little professional guidance and, most critically, has only sporadically and haphazardly been coordinated with weed control by Parks and Conservation Service (P&CS). We are fully aware of the need for P&CS to set priorities given funding and staffing constraints, as well as bottlenecks due to seasonal conditions and availability of contractors. The Management Plan acknowledges such constraints, but at the same time defines priority areas, control options and action plans that facilitates better coordinated work by FoMM volunteers, contractors and P&CS staff. The Management Plan helps to optimally allocate work that will be enabled by additional funding sources, should they become available in future.

On-ground work included in this project: The pattern, timing and type of weed control at the project site (Attachment 1) will be guided by the Management Plan which informs this project. This application asks for funding to support follow-up on-ground weed control activities in the 2025/2026 season. We are particularly interested in controlling buffer-zones around biodiversity rich rehabilitation sites and to extend the weed control area within the outer asset area (see Attachment 1). FoMM volunteers will continue to support weed control and rehabilitation actions for one day a week throughout the year and through additional events, such as monthly working bees, twilight weeding activities and activities involving scouts and ANU students. Attachment 2 demonstrates how FoMM contributed to weed control supported by Environment Grant ENV2024-2025 00001. We are further interested in demonstrating the critical importance of weed control follow-up actions, such as wood-chip mulching, direct seeding and thermal treatment in the fight against invasive grasses. We finally would like to install an interpretive display board at the entrance to the project site to inform the frequent visitors entering the site about the ecological assets, the history and the

conservation work at The Fair. In consultation with ONC and P&CS, FoMM will provide the design for the display panels (for an example see Attachment 3).

Attach any supporting documents

Filename: Attachment 1 2025 The Fair Project Summary.pdf

Filename: Attachment 2 2025 The Fair Weed Control Summary.pdf

Filename: Attachment 3 Interpretive panel example.JPG

Key step/activity	Description of step/activity	Timeline/Key Dates	Additional information
Weed treatment	Liaise with P&CS to engage weed contractors/Liaise with contractors/Coordinate volunteer weed control	Nov/Dec 2025-Jan/Feb2026	Engage with contractors and coordinate with volunteer weed control
Monitoring	FieldMap/NatureMapr	Continuous	Monitoring weeds; weed control, ecological communities
Follow-up work	Direct seeding/mulching follow-up treatment	Depending on season, rainfall and herbivore pressure	Such follow-up work is particularly important when treating invasive grasses to prevent reinfestations
Education	Design & install interpretive displays in consultation with P&CS and ONC	Jan-March 2026	Creation of maps, before-after images, images and explanatory text, panel design, consultation ect.

Please describe how the outcomes of your project will be maintained post your project end date.

FoMM volunteers will maintain a regular schedule of work at the project site, with activities every Monday, including monitoring, hand-weeding and spraying. In addition there are three summer twilight weeding sessions a week, with further activities at some of our monthly Sunday working bees as well as extra events scheduled for community organizations such as the Scouts (see Attachment 2 2025 The Fair Weed Control Summary). After the Project ends these activities will continue to be guided by the Management Plan.

We will in addition continue to coordinate weed control with P&CS, seek funding as opportunities arise (e.g. ACT NRM, Office of Nature Conservation projects) and contribute our own funds to contractor weed control, if needed. For instance, in 2023/2024 FoMM was successful in obtaining funding from the NRM's Community Stewardship Weed Control Support Program for St John's Wort control at the project site. Most importantly, we will continue monitoring weeds, the effectiveness of week control and biodiversity outcomes, while documenting our activities on FieldMaps and Canberra NatureMapr.

Please describe how you will monitor and evaluate your project. How will you determine if you have achieved your outcomes?

We expect the Management Plan to provide guidance over many years, which will require a longer time-frame for evaluating the success of sustained weed control. The main project outcome will be weed control actions for the season 2025/2026. Ideally, the outcomes should be professionally evaluated, possibly by ONC staff, who have already collected baseline data for the project area. All future control actions will be monitored and recorded in FieldMaps; as will be the weed density. FoMM volunteers will continue to monitor native vegetation and wildlife, including rare and endangered species, contributing the data to Canberra Nature Mapr. A critical outcome of the project will be the contribution the Management Plan makes to the coordination of control activities by FoMM volunteers, by P&CS and other programs, such as run by ACT NRM or ONC, should such programs be available in future. We do hope that we will continue to receive professional advice from ONC. We hope to demonstrate that persistent and professionally guided weed control actions, combined with follow-up work, such as direct seeding and mulching, can make regenerating ecological communities resilient against future weed invasions.

Project budgeting and value for money

Item	Basis of costing	Grant Funding Requested	Applicant Contribution	Budget
eg, plants, weed contractor, materials, equipment hire, communications, admin costs	eg, estimated cost of seedlings, cost per hectares of treatment, contracted hours, volunteer hours	(GST inclusive for goods and services) Must be a dollar amount.	Must be a dollar amount.	This number/amount is calculated.
Monitoring	12 months, 6hrs/week @ $50.4	$0.00	$14,515.20	$14,515.20
Weed control	80hrs, 2 staff @ 215/hr, $3500 chemicals; Volunteer labour 4 months, hrs/week	$17,200.00	$12,902.40	$30,102.40
Administration	Website costs ($150); Fund admin ($2500) Volunteer labour (Grant acquittal/reporting 20hrs)	$2,650.00	$1,008.00	$3,658.00
Education	Stanbd alone interpretive signs estimate; design by volunteers 40hrs	$7,500.00	$2,016.00	$9,516.00

Merit Criteria 5: Level of community and stakeholder engagement

A core group of 10 people works each week at the project site. For instance: In 2022-23 ninety individuals volunteered some time to on-ground work at various FoMM project sites, including at The Fair. Of all 31 ParkCare (Patch) groups, FoMM volunteers contribute the most hours (3667) recorded on the ParkCare Hub (Source ParkCare Annual Report 2022-23). **The demographics of**

community members: Core volunteers are retirees, but are regularly joined by younger participants at weekend and evening activities, including families and children. Work with community organizations attracts younger participants, e.g. Scouts<18 years and ANU Intrepid students (18-25 years). **How these community members will be engaged**: Through weekly, monthly and one-off on-ground activities, such as weed control (manual and herbicide), monitoring and mapping. **How the project and outcomes will be communicated to a wider audience**: (a) Monthly FoMM newsletter, distributed to ca. 300 subscribers; (b) FoMM Website (www.majura.org); (c) ACT Weed Forum via ParkCare representative; ParkCare Convenor Meetings; (d) Presentation to EcoFocus Conference; (e) Communication with ACT Biosecurity, Office of Nature Conservation and Canberra Nature Park North staff. **What other groups or organizations you are partnering with**: Molonglo Conservation Group, Office of Nature Conservation; Canberra Nature Park North; P&CS Volunteer and Visitor Experience, Parks and Partnerships team. **What each partner/s is/are responsible for or contributing to your project**: P&CS Volunteer and Visitor Experience, Parks and Partnerships team; ParkCare SupportRanger: Material support for volunteer weed control work; Canberra Nature Park North: Weed contractor engagement & coordination; Office of Nature Conservation: Preparing management plan, provide baseline data & evaluation.

Please upload evidence of project support from the land manager or land owner.

Attachment 4: 2025-26 Grants - Letter of Endorsement - Friends of Mount Majura.pdf

Excerpts from the Weed Managment Plan

Figure 7: The Fair – Inner and Outer Asset Areas

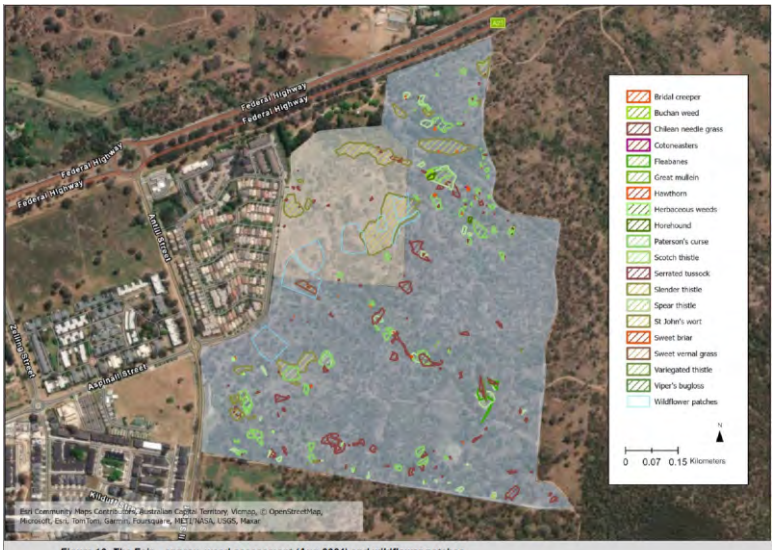


Figure 10: The Fair – approx. weed assessment (Aug 2024) and wildflower patches

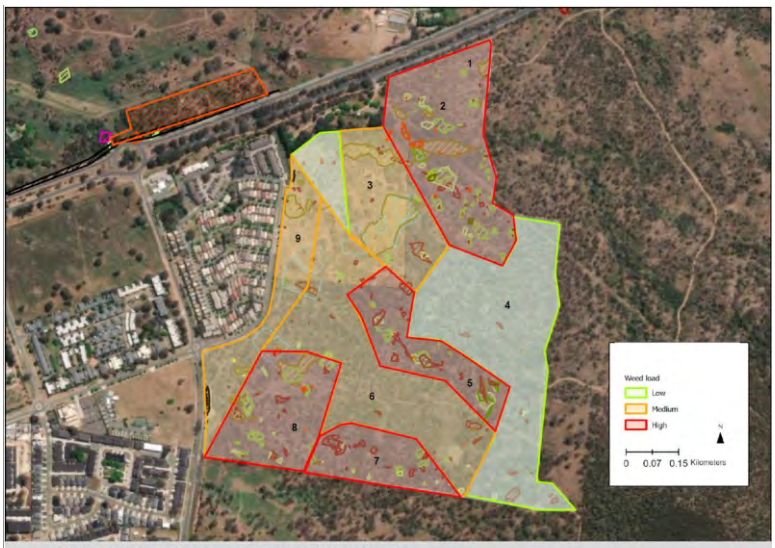


Figure 12: The Fair – Work zones in relation to weed load and condition

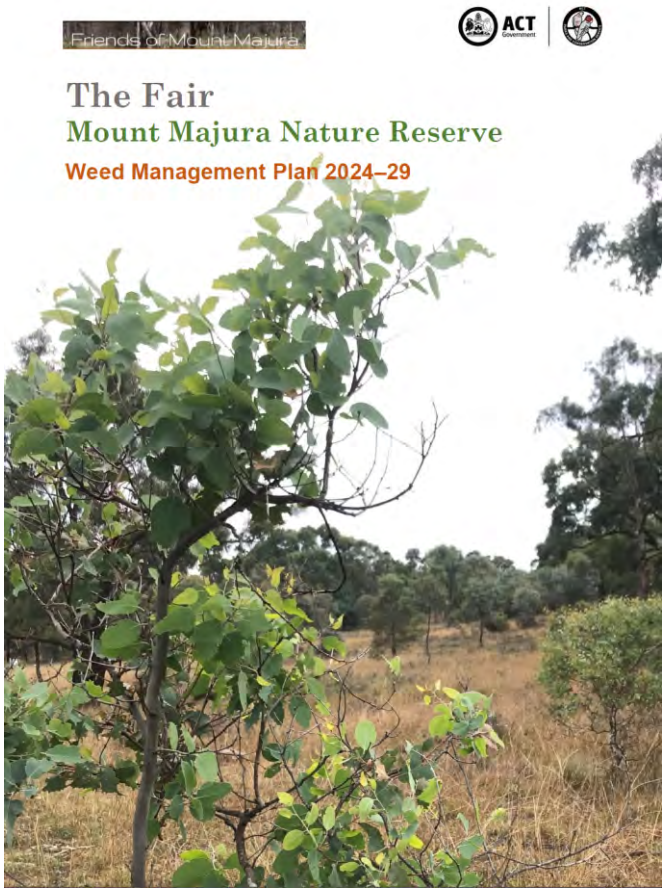
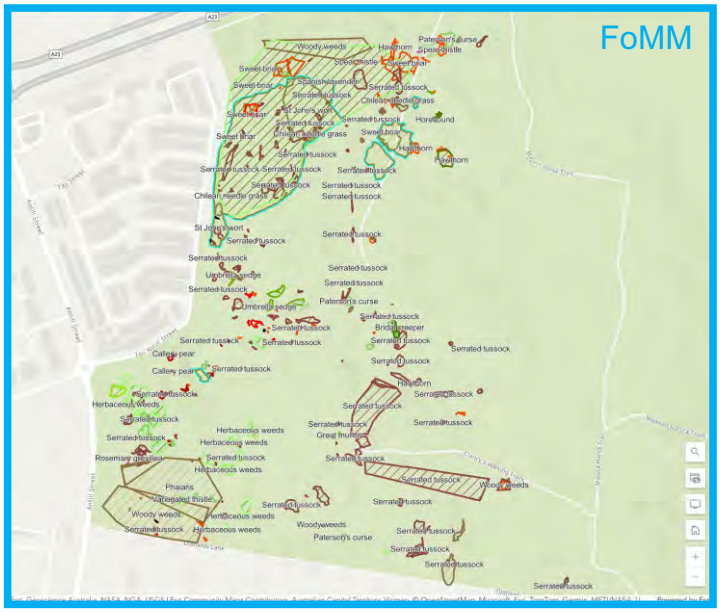


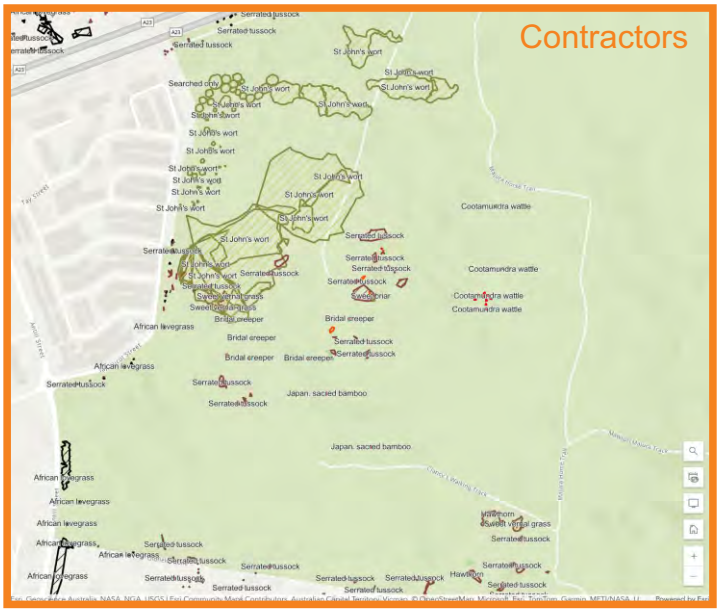
Table 1: Rare and uncommon species found at the Fair, inner and outer asset zones[6]

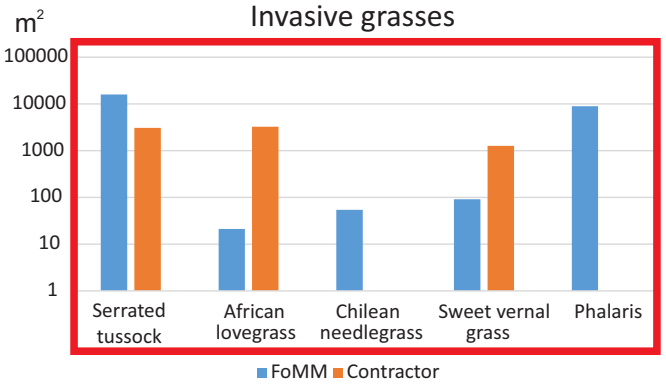
Scientific name	Common name	Status in ACT
Caladenia actensis	Canberra Spider Orchid	Critically Endangered
Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo	Endangered
Leucochrysum albicans	Hoary Sunray	Endangered
Rutidosis leptorhynchoides	Button Wrinklewort	Endangered
Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus	Dusky Woodswallow	Vulnerable
Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami	Glossy Black Cockatoo	Vulnerable
Daphoenositta chrysoptera	Varied Sittella	Vulnerable
Eucalyptus aggregata	Black Gum	Vulnerable
Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater	Vulnerable
Petroica boodang	Scarlet Robin	Vulnerable
Pyrrholaemus sagittatus	Speckled Warbler	Vulnerable
Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth	Vulnerable
Miniopterus orianae oceanensis	Eastern Bent-wing bat	Very Rare/ threatened
Cullen tenax	Tough Scurf-Pea	Rare or uncommon native
Dianella sp. aff. longifolia (Benambra)	Pale Flax Lily, Blue Flax Lily	Rare or uncommon native
Eurystomus orientalis	Dollar Bird	Rare or uncommon native
Falco berigora	Brown Falcon	Rare or uncommon native
Petrochelidon nigricans	Tree Martin	Rare or uncommon native
Petroica rosea	Rose Robin	Rare or uncommon native
Philemon citreogularis	Little Friarbird	Rare or uncommon native
Platycercus elegans x eximius (hybrid)	Crimson x Eastern Rosella hybrid	Rare or uncommon native
Pterodontia mellii	Hunchback Fly	Rare or uncommon native
Ptilotula fusca	Fuscous Honeyeater	Rare or uncommon native
Strepera versicolor	Grey Currawong	Rare or uncommon native
Tinzeda lobata	A Kaytid	Rare or uncommon native

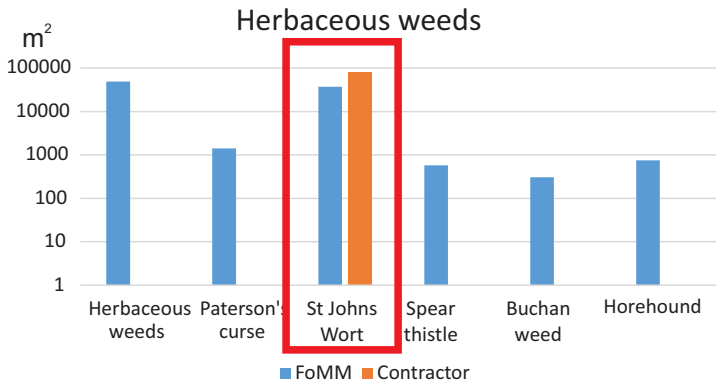
Attachment 2

2024-2025 Treated weeds

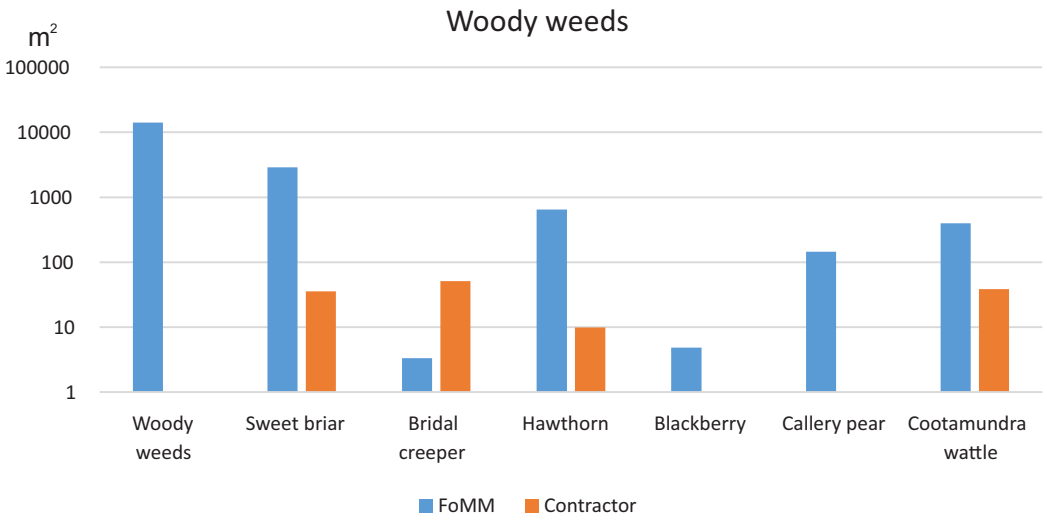




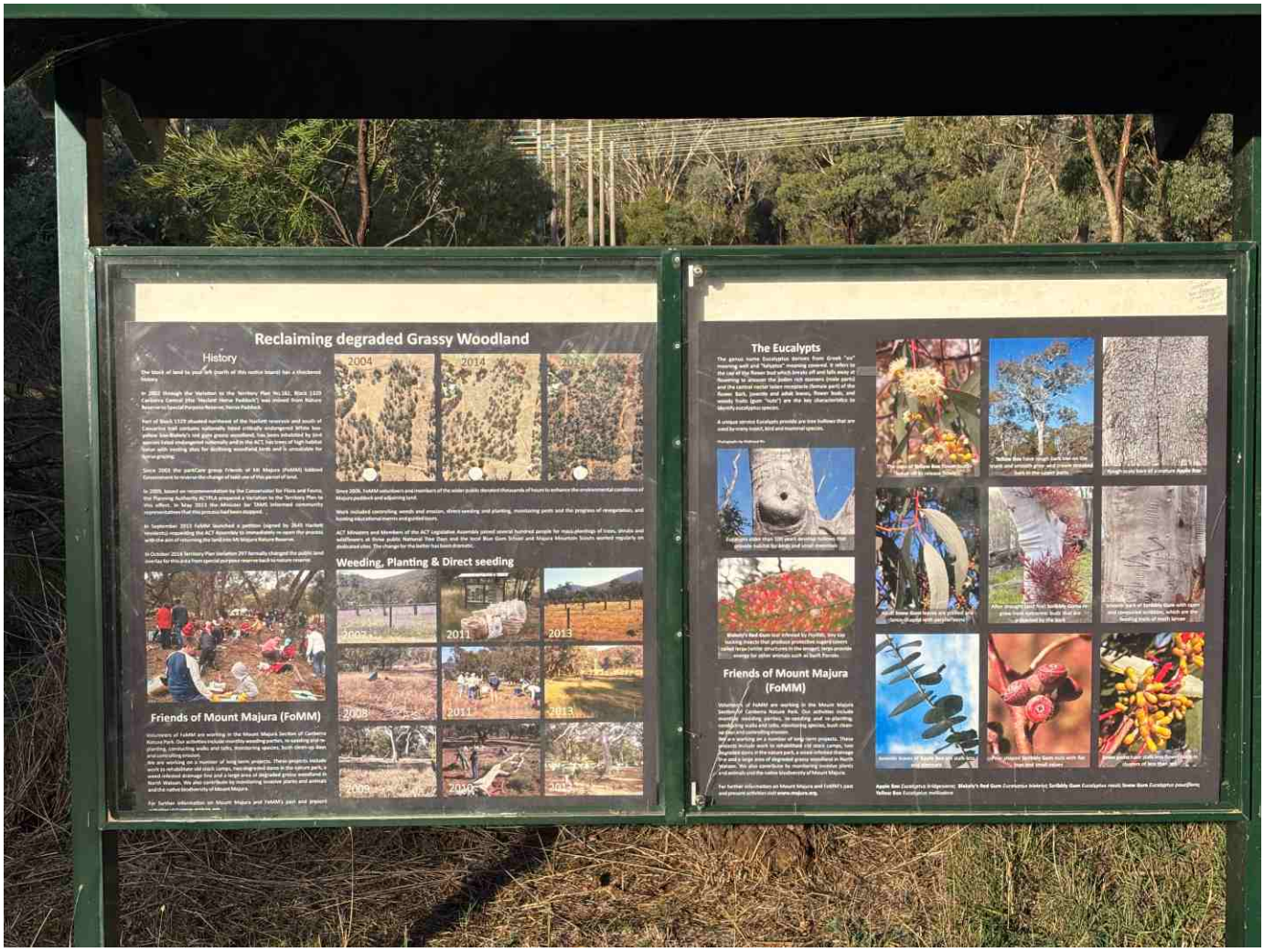




Weed control supported by grant highlighted red



Attachment 3



Attachment 4

OFFICIAL

ACT Government
City and Environment

To whom it may concern,

Support for 2025/26 Environment Grant Application

ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) support Friends of Mount Majura's application as part of the 2025/26 Environment Grant, to carry out the activities detailed in the application, and summarised below, to:

1. Undertake weed control activities at The Fair site
2. Design and install interpretive signage at The Fair site

The application compliments the works of PCS and continues the ongoing efforts of the Friends of Mount Majura at this significant rehabilitation site. The installation of interpretive signs will celebrate and recognise the work of the volunteer community.

PCS advise any contractor involved in weed control under a successful grant application are to be engaged and supervised by District staff in accordance with the prequalified weeds contractor program to ensure:

- contractors hold adequate qualifications and experience;
- appropriate herbicide chemical and rates are used;
- appropriate supervision and management of works is provided; and,
- that there are no clashes with other works.

All interpretive signage design and content must undergo PCS approvals and follow accessibility guidelines. The group will be provided guidance and advice on the process upon receipt of a grant.

If the applicant is successful in receiving a Grant, all final detailed works plans must be approved by PCS before they are carried out.

Lauren McQueen
Volunteer Programs Manager
ACT Parks and Conservation Service
City and Environment Directorate

1 July 2025