



Our ref: 2013/ED/0044

Ms Chris Pryor
Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby
PO Box 6182
KANGAROO VALLEY NSW 2577

Dear Ms Pryor

Thank you for providing the final report for your Environmental Trust project *Brush-tailed Rock wallaby: growing resilience in our local community*.

The Trust's technical committee representative has reviewed your project report and found that the outcomes achieved are in keeping with those set out in the original grant application. A summary of the reviewer's feedback is provided on the back of this letter.

The Trust appreciates your efforts and the work put into providing the final report. It appears that your project has achieved a successful outcome and accordingly, I congratulate you and am acquitting your grant.

Yours sincerely

PETER DIXON
Director, Grants

Contact officer: Chris Kennedy
(02) 8837 6019
chris.kennedy@environment.nsw.gov.au

Enclosure

REVIEWER COMMENTS

1. Provide an overall rating on how the project tracked:

Excellent. An excellent rating is suitable where all project activities have met or exceeded expectations, with comprehensive information provided by the grantee to support this.

2. Cite specific reasons from the final report as to why you have selected this rating:

Almost all project activities were met or exceeded by the grantee and sufficient explanation has been given for one activity that was not met.

The grantee has educated and engaged with 2.5 more times the number of schools and students than expected for the classroom presentations, creative group work and field work, and twice the expected number of students for the monitoring skill development sessions. They also engaged with 12 more organisations than expected.

The grantee (Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby) have also increased their number of new members by almost four times more than expected and received 30 more donations than expected, some in the thousands of dollars.

3. How effective were the selected monitoring techniques in demonstrating change?

The online survey has demonstrated that since 2010 (when Highlands Area National Parks & Wildlife Service BTRW Recovery Program Team conducted a community survey):

- There has been an increase in the percentage of community members who fully support NPWS fox baiting to help protect Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies (from 54% to 77%)
- There has been a decrease in the number of respondents who have seen a fox on their property (from 75% to 67%)
- There has been an increase in the number of respondents who consider a fox a pest animal.

It must be noted though that these results could be skewed by the fact that 53% of the 2017 respondents were members of the Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and that the demographics of the two survey respondents (where they live and what type of property they live on) are different.

4. How effectively did the grantee promote the project?

The grantee has effectively promoted the project through their program partners and community networks, as evidenced by their ability to meet and exceed many of their project activity's expectations.

5. What positive feedback can be given to the grantee?

The Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (FBTRW) and their partner organisations NPWS and OEH should be congratulated for helping to save a threatened species through unrelenting, passionate and innovative environmental education and engagement.

They have facilitated innovative and creative engagement activities to engender schools, including: biodiversity and Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby (BTRW) dance performances; fundraising to symbolically adopt local BTRWs and; loaning motion detection cameras to students for their own citizen science activities at home.

The grantee has undertaken excellent community engagement, as demonstrated by their member drive and donation success plus the unexpected high number of documentary screenings and DVDs distributed to the community. With their partners they have undertaken strong landholder engagement through workshops, which have resulted in the uptake of threat abatement actions by landholders relating to fox control.

A clear strength of the grantee are their collaborative partnerships with other organisations, both within and outside of their local community, as demonstrated by their willingness to make their teaching resources available on the FBTRW website and offering these resources to NP Foundation, Intrepid Landcare and NPWS education program coordinators. Another strength is their excellent use of adaptive project management to find new opportunities to achieve project objectives when it became clear that certain plans would not work. e.g. approaching Duke of Edinburgh participants and University students to develop skills in monitoring BTRW when it became apparent that high school students and schools were not engaging with this aspect of the project for reasons beyond their control.

The grantee are an inspiring example of what can be achieved by passionate and hard-working community volunteers who care about their local biodiversity. Their future plans are equally as inspiring and I wish them great success in helping to bring the BTRW back from the brink of extinction.

