

# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT FUND (NEIF)

Special request for project funding from the Australian Government – 2022

## BACKGROUND

Cradle Coast Authority Representatives from member councils identified the urgent need to fund natural environment management as their number one priority in the lead up to the Federal election.

The establishment of the Natural Environment Investment Fund (NEIF) would protect and enhance the natural assets that underpin Cradle Coast's world class tourist experiences and support the production of premium goods, that form important ecosystems supporting diverse flora and fauna and provide essential functions such as carbon stores.

While the NEIF addresses the priorities of the 2030 NRM Strategy for the Cradle Coast, its specific purpose is to address the natural management issues that are localised or specific to local councils, communities and the region and not addressed by the current Federal agenda for environmental management.

Additionally, the NEIF will allow councils, communities, and the region to address chronic skill shortages and the lack of defined career pathways in Natural Resource Management.

It capitalises on the knowledge and skills, and existing partnerships and networks of NRM Cradle Coast to produce sustainable environmental benefits for future generations, education and training opportunities and improved liveability for the Cradle Coast region.

## 1. VISION: NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

This project will deliver on ground environmental outcomes to protect and conserve the Cradle Coast's water, soil, plants, animals and ecosystems, as well as supporting the productive and sustainable use of these valuable resources.

This will include:

- Improved land and water management in agricultural systems;
- Biodiversity protection and improvement;
- Biosecurity including weed control and invasive species management;
- Create sustainable industries by building climate change resilience systems.

## 2. VISION: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

This program will be facilitated through Cradle Coast Authority and our existing networks (local councils, industry, not-for-profit organisations, environmental and Aboriginal groups and local land managers) and includes hosted positions for trainees within our member councils.

This will deliver the following social outcomes:

- Increased participation in the workforce through targeted mentorship;
- A skilled future Natural Resource Management (NRM) workforce for local councils;
- A Pathway for career opportunities facilitated through job network partnerships;
- Increased awareness and exposure to potential employment opportunities within the industry, easing the current strain of a limited workforce.

## KEY BENEFITS:

- Develop a skilled workforce through mentoring, training and work experience to improve the participant's skills and employability and enhance their sense of well-being.
- Deliver significant conservation outcomes in Key Biodiversity Areas, protecting natural values and strengthening the foundations of sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors.
- Improve the capacity of our partners to achieve significant strategic and economic outcomes.

## REQUEST:

NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT \$12 mil

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT \$3 mil

TOTAL INVESTMENT OVER 3 YEARS \$15 mil





# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT FUND (NEIF)

## VISION: NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The NEIF would focus on six important systems within our region; three catchments and three key biodiversity areas.

Using a CCA project team to drive actions and priorities in conjunction with our delivery partners, we will work with land managers and communities to achieve:

- Improved land and water management in agricultural systems;
- Biodiversity protection and improvement;
- Biosecurity outcomes including weed control and invasive species management;
- Create sustainable industries by building climate change resilience systems.



### Key Biodiversity Areas – Northwest KBA, King Island KBA, Cradle KBA

- Native planting for biodiversity and habitat protection.
- Invasive species management, including feral cats.
- Fire and weed management.
- Access infrastructure and education in tourism.
- Threaten species programs.
- Cultural asset protection and culture values projects.

### Catchments – Mersey Catchment, Circular Head Catchment, Flowerdale Catchment

- Riparian and on farm management (stock exclusion fencing revegetation, weeds).
- Effluent storage and on farm drainage.
- Appropriate irrigation practices.
- Urban water use and management.
- Ground cover management.
- Carbon opportunities and co-benefits (soil, forestry and blue carbon systems).



### REQUEST: OVER 3 YEARS

\$12 mil

Funding would enable:

- A qualified CCA project team of four;
- Land owner grants on co-funded projects;
- Engaging partners and specialists for works, environmental planning, implementation and monitoring for adaptive management.





# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT FUND (NEIF)

## VISION: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The need for more access to workforce in natural resource management and agriculture sectors has been identified for the Cradle Coast region.

This project will help develop a workforce by offering career opportunities for young people in the region. Nine CCA apprentices will be hosted each year over the region's councils. CCA will work with councils in targeted environmental projects involving the apprentices, this will be co-funded from NEIF expanding the capacity of not just the individual but councils in delivering regional environmental outcomes. The project will include targeted support for three Aboriginal apprentices.

By providing these opportunities we will achieve:

- Increased participation in the workforce through targeted mentorship;
- A skilled future Natural Resource Management (NRM) workforce for local councils;
- A pathway for career opportunities facilitated through job network partnerships;
- Increased awareness and exposure to potential employment opportunities within the industry, easing the current strain of a limited workforce.

Actions would include:

- 27 NRM apprenticeships hosted by the regional councils;
- Aboriginal apprenticeship program;
- Training and development program with formal qualifications;
- Targeted local environmental project per council with CCA project support.

**REQUEST: OVER 3 YEARS**

**\$3 mil**

Funding would enable:

- A qualified CCA project coordinator;
- 27 NRM apprenticeships over the three years;
- Allocated project budget per council for targeted localised environmental outcomes.



# CRADLE COAST REGIONAL DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Special request for project funding from the Australian Government – 2022

## BACKGROUND

Reliable connectivity is essential for everyday life in regional, rural, and remote Australia. Currently this is not the reality for many across the Cradle Coast region. Necessary improvements include the ability for everyone to remain connected 24/7, have access to online education, health provisions and government services, support remote working and guarantee that the technology solutions offered to metropolitan communities are available for rural and regional areas to improve productivity.

This is an equity issue that needs to be address, through a review of the current National Telecommunications policy.

North-west Tasmania has a dispersed population covering a 23,000 square kilometre landmass. The dispersed population and topography of the land in this region make the required solutions commercially unviable for service providers without government co-investment.

Cradle Coast Authority on behalf of member councils, would like to see the Federal government play a more significant role in closing the digital divide by bridging the funding gap for this essential service across the entire community.

The 2020 Digital Inclusion Index (DII) states that the Northwest region is 11.5 points below the national average (51.5) making it the least digitally inclusive region in Australia., We are socially and economically disadvantaged.

## 1. VISION: POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

Cradle Coast Authority calls upon the Federal government to undertake this policy review and make any necessary amendments to address existing inequities in digital funding and connectivity.

The current funding model is not an equitable solution. Current service provision models require local government to co-invest in infrastructure alongside funding from the Regional Connectivity Funding Program, and commercial providers. Users of the service pay for the service at the same rates as other Australians despite contributing directly to the capital investment for access.

This type of infrastructure is readily available in metropolitan Australia. When funding gaps are left to regional, rural and remote councils to cover; infrastructure will fall further behind and exacerbate existing digital connectivity in equity.

## 2. VISION: FEASIBILITY STUDY

Preliminary research undertaken by Cradle Coast Authority in July 2021 into the Mobile and NBN Coverage identified key issues and potential solutions for the region.

CCA proposes to undertake a feasibility study into the quality of connectivity across the Cradle Coast region, to investigate digital challenges and opportunities including:

- Depth of coverage;
- Coverage access and availability;
- Coverage consistency, including on the major transport corridor, the Bass Highway;
- Network capacity and safety concerns i.e. reliable access to emergency services.

## 3. VISION: IMMEDIATE INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

CCA's Mobile and NBN Coverage Review that was released in July, 2021 and member councils' analysis has identify the following immediate infrastructure priorities:

- Railton – NBN (\$2.5m)
- Togari – Mobile Towers (\$1m)
- West Coast – Mobile Towers (\$1m)

## KEY BENEFITS:

- Improve safety and digital accessibility for community wellbeing.
- Improve product offerings for tourism, health, education and other government services.
- Improve productivity for businesses, through enabling rural and industrial areas to deploy enhanced technology.
- Ensure the cost of telecommunications remains affordable regardless of location.

## REQUEST:

FEASIBILITY STUDY	\$250 k
INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES	\$4.5 mil
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT OVER 3 YEARS</b>	<b>\$4.75 mil</b>



# SMALL BUSINESS CO-INVESTMENT FUND

Special request for project funding from the Australian Government – 2022

## BACKGROUND

Cradle Coast Authority (CCA), Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority and RDA Tasmania have developed a proposal for a grants program that supports government co-investment in expansion of enterprises where there are clearly new employment outcomes.

The program will provide opportunity for growth and development, generate more sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for people and sectors which have had employment negatively impacted by COVID-19, including our vital and hard-hit tourism, hospitality, entertainment and events industries.

The Small Business Co-Investment Fund will allow businesses and not-for-profits to apply for funding through a competitive process, with applications assessed against a number of criteria, and applicants required to match the Government contribution. This kind of co-investment scheme is a proven way of stimulating economic growth that is relevant, place-based and low risk for government.

CCA has also identified a gap in funding opportunities for new and small businesses and believes there is need to offer grants of a smaller amount (up to \$10,000) to businesses that have progressed through the Cradle Coast Enterprize program, or a program of similar prestige i.e. Start-up Tas.

## 1. VISION: SMALL BUSINESS CO-INVESTMENT FUND

A dollar-for-dollar small business co-investment program that aims to drive economic growth and create jobs in the Cradle Coast region.

- The program will be managed Federally and implemented Locally.
- It will allow for a minimum grant of \$20k and maximum grant of \$1m.
- Applicants will be required to at least match the government contribution.

## 2. VISION: ENTERPRIZE FUND

This proposal will deliver a limited number of grants to start-ups and small businesses unable to match the Government contribution (minimum \$20,000). It will create funding opportunities for organisations that have progressed through the Cradle Coast Enterprize program.

- Limited number of grants available.
- Managed Federally and implemented Locally.
- It will allow for a minimum grant of \$2k and maximum grant of \$10k.
- Applicants will be required to have progressed through the Cradle Coast Enterprize program, or a program of similar prestige.

## 3. VISION: 'FUNDING FINDER' PLATFORM AND SUPPORT

Many businesses, not-for-profits and community groups have identified the challenges with constantly seeking and applying for grants that are best suited to them. In 2020, Cradle Coast Authority launched the 'Cradle Coast Funding Finder' to all businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals. This site provides a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities available to the user as a free service however the cost to Cradle Coast Authority is \$23,000 per annum. In addition to the Funding Finder, CCA will provide a free service to help explain and write/apply for grants.

- Continue funding the 'Cradle Coast Funding Finder' (annual cost of \$23,000).
- Provide a free service to help businesses, community groups and not-for-profits navigate grant finding, writing and management.

## KEY BENEFITS:

- Diversify regional economies.
- Stimulate long term growth.
- Deliver sustainable employment.
- Enable applicants to enter new markets and sectors.
- Attract and retain a working age population within the Cradle Coast region.

## REQUEST:

SMALL BUSINESS CO-INVESTMENT FUND	\$20 mil
ENTERPRIZE FUND	\$200 k
'FUNDING FINDER' PLATFORM	\$70 k
'FUNDING FINDER' SUPPORT	\$30 k
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT OVER 3 YEARS</b>	<b>\$20.3 mil</b>



# DON RIVER RAILWAY

## Tourist railway and museum

Don River Railway is a not-for-profit tourist railway and museum, located in Don, Northwest Tasmania.

This project will build upon the existing Don River Railway tourist operation with the aim of capturing the overnight visitor by offering a more diverse offering including rail trip, heritage museum, interpretation, café, function centre and regular monthly events.

### This project will:

- Extend passenger services across the northwest Tasmania.
- Deliver a world class visitor centre.
- Provide leading edge industry capability and capacity with regard to maintenance and repair of tourist railway infrastructure.
- Deliver a roundhouse carriage and locomotive pavilion to store and display static and rolling stock equipment.
- Develop and upgrade the workshop to a commercial operation to cater for other heritage railway users.
- Construct a ticket office, café and function centre adjoining the existing buildings.
- Deliver Disability Discrimination Act compliant access to the site with improved walkways and carriage access.



### KEY BENEFITS:

- Job creation and employment opportunities.
- Increase tourist visitors.
- Improve passenger accessibility and safety.

To find out more information on this project visit:  
[www.donriverrailway.com.au](http://www.donriverrailway.com.au)

### REQUEST:

\$17 mil

# SLIPSTREAM CIRCUS BUILDING

## New purpose-built facility

Slipstream Circus is Tasmania's largest circus organisation, providing a safe professional environment for participants to develop a range of performance skills and perform locally. Participation in circus has shown to benefit academic and social development, and build confidence for future public life.

### This project will:

- Build a fit for purpose, circus focused performing arts training space.
- Fill a current gap for community, professional and educational groups.
- Offer flexibility for use by many performing arts and community groups on the Northwest coast of Tasmania.
- Enable the Slipstream Circus to expand and diversify their offering.
- Free up space in their existing accommodation at the Ulverstone basketball stadium.
- Provide suitable access for people with disabilities and address current structural limitations.

A dedicated circus training and performance space will enable circus training to flourish and expand in scope for trainers and participants – including student members, schools, community groups, professional artists disability groups, disengaged at risk children and young people.



### KEY BENEFITS:

- Create a larger space that is structurally suitable with appropriate disability access
- Opportunity for expansion that will create economies of scale.
- Increased opportunities for participation.
- Meet the demands of growing popularity of this activity.

To find out more information on this project visit:  
[www.slipstreamcircus.org.au](http://www.slipstreamcircus.org.au)

### REQUEST:

\$3 mil

