

## 4.2 TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF TREES AND PLANTS (CF2019099: LS)

Responsible Director: Ossie Martinz

### **RECOMMENDATION\***

*That Council:*

- 1. Awards the tender from Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd for Supply of Trees and Plants, Contract No. CF2019099 for a schedule of rates based contract with an estimated annual contract value of \$280,000 and an estimated total contract value of \$1,400,000 inclusive of all available extension options.;*
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to execute the contract agreement and to approve extension options subject to satisfactory performance and*
- 3. Notes that the contract will commence on 2 August 2019, with an initial term of three (3) years and the contract has two extension options of one (1) years each.*

*(\*Please note that all dollar figures are GST Inclusive unless stated otherwise).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Council is responsible for maintaining and enhancing public open space land by planting, establishing and maintaining quality vegetation ranging from canopy trees, middle story plants and shrubs and ground covers.

Council has conducted a tender for the Supply of Trees and Plants to ensure Council's requirements for quality vegetation can be achieved through qualified supplier/s and in accordance with council's best value framework.

### **BACKGROUND**

Council oversees the management of significant open space areas throughout the municipality. While Council's focus is maintaining and protection councils highly valued open space assets. There is also a requirement to renew vegetation throughout. Council plants on average approximately 80,000 plants annually. This is made up of a combination of tree, shrubs and groundcovers. Areas covered include; street trees, open space reserves, council facilities, activity centres and road reserves such as roundabouts and traffic islands.

To increase the sustainability of Council's vegetation, supply contracts have been in place since 2013. This includes a separate contract for the Propagation and supply of Indigenous Plants (CF2017113).

The benefits of this approach include; quality assurance controls in place, clear understanding of requirements from both parties across a range of areas e.g. growing, sourcing, maintenance, timing of delivery etc.

It is estimated that this contract with the successful tenderer can supply approx. 85% of Council's needs. There will still remain a need where required to seek quotations from other suppliers for specific plants that may not be available.

### **NOTIFICATION**

A public notice was placed in The Age newspaper on *Saturday 11 May 2019* and the tender closed on *Friday 7 June 2019*.

### **TENDERS RECEIVED**

One (1) tender submission was received by the appointed closing time.

The tender received is listed below:

- Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd

### **Tender Conformance:**

The submission was assessed for compliance with the tender conditions including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules.

The tender submission was deemed conforming.

### **TENDER EVALUATION**

All members of the evaluation panel signed Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality forms and no conflicts were raised.

The tender was assessed in accordance with the evaluation criteria published in the tender documentation: *(Note: Financial Viability may be treated as either a weighted percentage or pass/fail)*

<b>Pass/Fail Assessment Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
OH&S Compliance	<i>Pass/Fail</i>
Insurance Indemnity	<i>Pass/Fail</i>

Table 2	KEY SELECTION CRITERIA	CRITERIA WEIGHTINGS	SUB WEIGHTINGS	SUB CRITERIA/RETURNABLE SCHEDULES LINK
40% NON-PRICE CRITERIA	Capacity and Capability	25%	15%	Experience
			5%	Resources
			1%	Risk Management
			1%	Legal Compliance
			3%	Performance and Innovation
	Sustainability	5%	5%	Environmental Sustainability
			1%	Local Sustainability
			1%	Social Sustainability
	Innovation & Specialist Knowledge	10%	10%	Innovation and Specialist Knowledge
	Quality & OHS	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail	Quality Management Systems
Pass/Fail			OHS Safety System	
PRICE (60%)	Price*	60%	60%	Comparison of Whole of Life Cost or Total Project Cost or Estimated Annual Cost

\*Minimum 60% price weighting required unless Council approves otherwise.

### **DISCUSSION**

The following information supports the evaluation panel's recommendations.

Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd have previously been part of a panel of suppliers and their performance has constantly met and exceeded expectations, especially when tight delivery timeframes have been required. Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd provide both growing and sourcing services allowing a broad range of trees and plants to be accessed.

The schedule of rates submitted for the list of Council's most commonly used trees and plants provides competitive rates per unit with the added benefit of quality controls under the terms and conditions of the contract.

In situations where Noble Olive Groves are not able to grow or supply, officers will seek quotations from other reputable suppliers in the market and via Councils procurement policy select the best value outcome.

The final evaluation ranking (including the price and non-price evaluation criteria) had Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd ranked highest and as such, the evaluation panel recommends Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd as representing the best value outcome for Council.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The schedule of rates tendered for the supply of Council's most commonly used trees and plants is competitive with previous rates and the current open market. Based on this evaluation these rates are considered best value.

Council provides both operating and capital funding for the assessment, planting and establishment of new trees and plants. It is estimated that between these sources of funding there is approx. \$280,000 allocated for the supply of plants and trees.

### ***SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES***

Noble Olive Groves Pty Ltd have a well-developed Environmental management plan. The following items are highlights of their efforts to be sustainable.

- Use recycled water where appropriate for healthy plant establishment.
- Irrigation system is powered by solar.
- Re-use of plastic pots.
- Recycled mulch from mature trees cut down
- Implemented equipment to mitigate the loss of vegetation during periods of frost. This has decreased the amount of stock lost by this weather event type. Reducing losses increases the efficiency of their program to be able to sustain orders while reducing inputs such as water and power to grow replacements.
- Supporting six current workers to achieve their Certificate 111 in Horticulture to ensure level of knowledge and experience is available to sustain operations.
- Employ from the local area of their farm in Birregurra. Developing a connection with the local community in particular the refugee communities from Laos, Thailand and Myanmar has resulted in 14 staff, 3 of which are in leadership positions.

### ***CONCLUSION***

That Council approves the tender for Supply of Trees and Plants to Nobile Olive Groves Pty Ltd.