

Trust response to ACIL Allen evaluation of the Bushfire Relief Fund for Wildlife Rehabilitators Program

3 May 2024

#	ACIL Allen recommendations	Trust response
1.	<p>ACIL Allen recommends that The Trust should:</p> <p>Ensure that funding recipients (such as NPWS) take appropriate steps in implementing grants to maximise ongoing legacy impacts during and following the grant period.</p>	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.</p>
2.	<p>ACIL Allen recommends that the Trust should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore amendments to its standard planning templates to incorporate program logics (to present a logical sequence from Fund inputs to outcomes) as a standard foundation for project planning;• Include standard terms for how devolved grants should be managed and reported on; and• Check on project progress by ensuring the grantee is collecting impact data throughout the grant lifecycle to ensure that its impact can be determined.	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of July 2023, all Major Project program reporting and planning templates were reviewed and updated, including incorporating the use of program logics in the standard business plan template. Trust administration continue to ensure that reporting templates are fit-for-purpose and capture information on all aspects of project progress.• The Trust endeavours to ensure that rigorous financial planning, risk assessment and budget development is undertaken in the business plan stage of projects, including for the use of devolved grants.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust administration will continue to provide high-level support and guidance to grantees in the development and implementation of their monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plans.
<p>3.</p>	<p>ACIL Allen recommends that the Trust should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider incorporating more regular check-ins with grantees, particularly for higher risk and value projects, and use this as an opportunity to collaboratively reflect on and amend the project delivery as needed; Require that grantees have appropriate (strengthened) mechanisms in place to ensure knowledge transfer, and that staff turnover does not impact institutional knowledge or grant delivery; and Ensure that grantees have strong financial management practices in place so that funding expenditure is appropriately tracked, managed and acquitted (noting that NPWS' practices highlighted a need for enhanced assurance). 	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>ACIL Allen recommends that the Trust should:</p> <p>Explore opportunities to better connect with other existing and newly funded projects and grants in related areas to better leverage any synergies and reduce unnecessary gaps or overlaps. This could be explored with grantees on an ongoing basis as projects are delivered.</p>	<p>Agree with the recommendation.</p> <p>The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.</p>
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