

Evaluation response

Environmental Trust response to Nexus evaluation of the Lord Howe Island ‘Tide is Turning’ project

#	Nexus recommendations	Trust response
1	It is recommended that the Trust maintain its current practice of excluding unsolicited grants from funding.	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice.
2	It is recommended that Major Projects assess their project co-design capabilities and, where necessary, arrange for capacity building around collaborative ways of working with grantees to support effective project co-design.	Agree with the recommendation. Trust Administration have standardised processes for effective co-design practices, with guidance and support provided to grantees.
3	It is recommended that, as per current practice, Major Projects continues to use a logic model approach in project business plans that clearly sets out how project activities will contribute to short, medium and longer term environmental outcomes and how these outcomes may be impacted by external factors.	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice.
4	It is recommended that, as per current practice, a logic model in project business plans continues to form the basis for measuring project achievements and clear milestones for reporting.	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice.
5	It is recommended that the TRC has a clearly defined role in assessing and advising on the technical viability of project during the design phase, including an assessment of the proponent’s underpinning assumptions and the feasibility of the project to be	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice. Technical Review Committees (TRC) operate under a standard Terms of Reference and assess the technical viability of initial project concepts against a clear set of criteria including

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	successfully completed within the proposed time and budget.	environmental need, feasibility and appropriateness, value for money, and capability and collaboration.
6	It is recommended that the Trust maintains opportunities to fund innovative projects, however a dedicated rationale for “why now” should be included in project proposals.	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice. Project proposal templates require proponents to address the urgency of the issue and the immediate need for funding.
7	It is recommended that LHIB make smaller pockets of difficult to access weeds the target for weed eradication efforts in the future when new, cost-effective approaches become available.	Not applicable.
8	It is recommended that the Trust consider sustainability of outcomes during the project selection phase and work collaboratively with grantees to incorporate sustainability considerations into the project design and reporting.	Agree with the recommendation. Project business plans require the proponent to demonstrate commitment to continuing support of the project outcomes beyond the life of the grant.
9	It is recommended that, as per current Trust practice, grant funding be staged over the course of a project subject to completion of agreed milestones as reviewed by TRCs (where applicable) or Trust staff.	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice.
10	It is recommended that LHIB maintain their efforts on uplifting project management capabilities for effective delivery of grant funded projects in the future	Not applicable.
11	It is recommended that criteria for selecting grant recipients include consideration of their project management systems, skills and experience.	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice; however, Trust Administration note that individual project team recruitment decisions are within the remit of the grant recipient.
12	It is recommended that project budget line items are more carefully aligned with planned project activities and their intended outputs and outcomes.	Agree with the recommendation.
13	It is recommended that in light of this evaluation the Trust review its risk assessment and management processes,	Agree with the recommendation. This is current practice.

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	including escalation mechanisms, in the case of unsatisfactory project progress.	The Trust maintain a risk register and report quarterly to an independent Audit and Risk Committee.
14	It is recommended that Major Projects continually review its approach to monitoring and evaluating funded projects, to ensure there is alignment between the program planning and reporting requirements.	Agree with the recommendation. All projects funded under the Major Projects program are independently evaluated.

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