



This form is only for Caring for our Country funding proposals. The closing date for this proposal is 3 April 2009. You are encouraged to read the *Instructions for preparing Caring for our Country proposal* and the *2009-10 business plan* available at www.nrm.gov.au before you commence this form.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Proponent name

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA – DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT THE ARTS AND SPORT

Proposal title

Please provide a title which clearly indicates what your proposal will achieve (maximum 15 words).

Reversing decline of mammals in north Australia – developing evidence-based management to sustain biodiversity.

Proposal summary

Please provide a short description of your proposal (maximum 150 words).

Substantial recent evidence attests to the rapid decline and local extinctions of many native mammals in extensive areas of northern Australia, across all types of land tenures including in large conservation reserves. This decline represents the most substantial biodiversity challenge facing this region, and any ongoing decline must by definition render the management of this vast natural area not sustainable. The factors causing this decline appear to be a cocktail of predation by feral cats, inappropriate fire regimes, and vegetation change due to total grazing pressure, with some possibility of involvement by disease. The relative contribution of these factors may vary at different sites and amongst different species; but has not been clarified. This lack of clarification has stalled the delivery of an appropriate management response.

The project will bring together government and non-government conservation agencies, and indigenous groups in a cross-jurisdictional, coordinated program to establish a series of large adaptive management areas, spaced across northern Australia. In these areas, management of fire, grazing pressure and feral cats would be manipulated using realistic management scenarios in order to define the relative contribution of these factors to the decline of the mammal fauna, and to provide demonstration areas of effective management for recovering this fauna, that can then inform, catalyse and justify improved management across far more extensive areas. The project has a strong emphasis on providing evidence to test and refine management systems for biodiversity in northern Australia, and a sought outcome of providing “proof” secure areas with greatest resilience. From these areas, guidelines will be developed for management for biodiversity and resilience outcomes across the northern savannas.

Proposed budget

\$ 5,574,600

Proposed duration

Proposed start date (month, year)

July 2009

Proposed completion date (month, year)

June 2013

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Proposal type

Please select the relevant category(s) for your proposal.

- Small-scale proposal
- Medium-scale proposal
- Large-scale expression of interest
- Acquisition of land for the national reserve system

Priority area

Please select the relevant Caring for our Country priority area(s) that your proposal addresses.

- National Reserve System
- Biodiversity and natural icons
- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices
- Natural resource management in northern and remote Australia
- Community skills, knowledge and engagement

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SECTION 1: PROPONENT DETAILS

The *Proponent Details* are required for the legal entity with whom the Australian Government will form a contract, if this proposal is successful.

1.1 (a) Organisation details

Organisation name	NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT THE ARTS AND SPORT		
Organisation/Company ABN	84 085 734 992		
Organisation/Company ACN			
Is your organisation registered for GST?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

1.1 (b) Organisation address details

PO Box/Street Address	PO BOX 496		
Town/City	PALMERSTON		
State	NT	Postcode	0831

1.1 (c) Entity type

- Incorporated group or organisation
- Incorporated Aboriginal or Torres Strait organisation
- Regional natural resource management organisation
- Australian public or private company
- Registered business partnership
- Local Government
- State or Territory Government
- Australian Government
- Trustee
- Educational Institution

1.1 (d) Proponent contact information—person who will sign the contract

This is the person with power to bind the organisation in a contract for the value of this proposal.

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	MR	JIM	GRANT
Position in organisation	CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
Business phone number	08 8999 3662		

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After hours phone number	<input type="text"/>
Fax	<input type="text" value="08 8932 3849"/>
Mobile	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="Jim.Grant@nt.gov.au"/>

1.1 (e) Proponent contact information—primary contact person

The primary contact person should be a person in the lead organisation who is readily contactable in March–May 2009 during the proposal assessment period and will be involved in the day-to-day management of the project.

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	<input type="text" value="DR"/>	<input type="text" value="JOHN"/>	<input type="text" value="WOINARSKI"/>
Organisation	<input type="text" value="NT NRETAS"/>		
Position in organisation	<input type="text" value="PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST"/>		
Business phone number	<input type="text" value="08 89955001"/>		
After hours phone number	<input type="text"/>		
Fax	<input type="text" value="08 89955099"/>		
Mobile	<input type="text"/>		
Email	<input type="text" value="john.woinarski@nt.gov.au"/>		

1.1 (f) Proponent contact information—secondary contact person

The secondary contact person should be a person who is readily contactable in March–May 2009 and will only be contacted where the primary contact person is unavailable.

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	<input type="text" value="DR"/>	<input type="text" value="ALARIC"/>	<input type="text" value="FISHER"/>
Organisation	<input type="text" value="NT NRETAS"/>		
Position in organisation	<input type="text" value="SENIOR SCIENTIST"/>		
Business phone number	<input type="text" value="08 89955002"/>		
After hours phone number	<input type="text"/>		
Fax	<input type="text" value="08 89955099"/>		
Mobile	<input type="text"/>		

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Email

alaric.fisher@nt.gov.au

1.2 REFEREES

Nominate two referees who can attest to your organisation's capacity to undertake the work set out in this proposal. Referees must not have any financial or contractual interest in this proposal.

1.2 (a) Referee 1

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	Professor	Bob	Beeton
Organisation	University of Queensland		
Position in organisation	Professor, School of Integrative Systems		
Business phone number	07 54601322		
Fax			
Mobile	0419 714533		
Email	r.beeton@uq.edu.au		

1.2 (b) Referee 2

	Title	First name	Last name
Name	Dr	Barry	Traill
Organisation	Pew Environment Group		
Position in organisation	Director, Wild Australia program		
Business phone number	(0)7 54296657		
Fax	(0)7 54296657		
Mobile	0448 793334		
Email	BTraill@pewtrusts.org		

SECTION 2: PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

2.1 Proposal detail

Provide a detailed description of the proposal, detailing the issues it will address, what the project will achieve, how it is addressing landscape scale change and the logic showing that these activities will deliver the targets (maximum 800 words).

The problem addressed. The issue addressed is that there is broad-scale and precipitous decline of native mammals across northern Australia, even in (World Heritage and Ramsar-listed) areas currently managed primarily for biodiversity conservation. The immediate problem to be addressed is that the cause(s) of the decline are not yet unambiguously determined, and hence an appropriate management response cannot be prescribed. This proposal will use an adaptive management approach in a series of landscape-scale trial areas ("proof areas") to specifically identify and attribute cause(s) and to develop and demonstrate appropriate evidence-based management responses. Through partnerships with a range of land management groups, more extensive uptake of management guidelines resulting from the "proof areas" will be delivered or regulated to increase resilience across extensive areas of northern Australia.

The integrated adaptive management approach. Over the last century (and especially over the last few decades) there has been substantial vegetation change across northern Australia, driven mostly by altered fire regimes and grazing by non-native herbivores (and changing climate and increased atmospheric CO₂). Such change has undoubtedly led to altered habitat suitability for many native species, and a range of studies has shown some substantial responses of individual plant and animal species to contrasting fire regimes and to contrasting grazing regimes. Many ground-dwelling native animals have also been affected by predation by feral cats, now widespread in northern Australia; and the impacts of cats may be exacerbated in frequently burnt areas.

However, while the role of cats (and foxes) in the decline and extinction of arid and semi-arid mammal faunas has been well documented (e.g. Johnson 2006. *Australia's mammal extinctions: a 50,000 year history* (Cambridge University Press)), the role of feral cats in northern Australia has been little studied, and their impact is largely conjectural. Further, controlling feral cats over extensive areas may be particularly costly, so such control is unlikely to be attempted until and unless there is a clear demonstration of significant impact of cats upon biodiversity. This project will provide the evidence to evaluate the need for extensive feral cat management, and the evidence of conservation benefits that such management would provide.

Here we propose to develop evidence-based management guidelines for retaining biodiversity in northern Australia, through selected areas of landscape-scale adaptive management. These "proof areas" of on-ground management will:

- explicitly define the relative contribution to mammal decline of the currently considered main likely causal factors;
- develop cost-benefit and efficacy assessments for a range of management regimes; and
- establish nucleus areas of resilience in the tropical savannas of northern Australia where management is delivering positive trends for the native mammal fauna.

A set of 5-10 proof areas will be established across the geographic range and tenure spectrum of northern Australia. At each site we will manipulate at least two of the plausible threatening factors within defined management regimes. The response of the native mammal fauna will be monitored using robust methodologies now well established by the proponents; and this response will then direct (and provide the necessary supporting evidence for) further management refinements, providing evidence-based guidelines for best practice management for biodiversity outcomes and environmental resilience. The intensive management proof areas and their management manipulations comprise (listed broadly from west to east):

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- (1) Purnululu (SE Kimberley) [2,397 km²] - fire, cat predation.
- (2) Mitchell Plateau, NW Kimberley [1,153 km²] - fire, cat predation.
- (3) Mornington-Marion Downs station (central Kimberley, WA) [5,800 km²] - fire, grazing, cat predation.
- (4) Kakadu NP (NT) [20,000 km²] - fire, cat predation.
- (5) Garig Gunak Barlu NP (NT) [2265 km²] – fire, cat predation, grazing
- (6) Warddeken IPA (NT) [ca 30,000 km²] – fire, cat predation, grazing
- (7) Groote Eylandt (NT) [2260 km²] – fire, cat predation
- (8) Wongalara (NT) [1922 km²] – fire, grazing, cat predation
- (9) Pungalina – Seven Emus (NT) [3060 km²] – fire, grazing.

In addition, to these areas, monitoring of biodiversity outcomes associated with generally consistent but less prescriptive management will be undertaken at Brooklyn, Mt Zero-Taravale, Piccaninny (all Queensland) properties, consistent with the approach described here.

Note that we will value-add to this project design by also using the project infrastructure to simultaneously measure and monitor (or make available to others to do such assessment) a broad range of biodiversity, including responses of plants, birds and reptiles.

In summary, the project represents a strategic and coordinated effort across jurisdictions and tenures to better protect nationally threatened and iconic species, and will contribute substantially to the protection of important natural assets in northern and remote Australia, including the national reserve system.

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2.2 Targets addressed by proposal

Detail the Caring for our Country targets that your proposal will contribute to achieving.

Caring for our Country target(s)	Quantity of target to be delivered	Milestones (measures of progress)	Timeframe for each milestone
		MERI project framework finalised	Dec 2009
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats.</p> <p>[Note that this proposal will improve management of the sandstone heathlands of the Arnhem Land plateau, currently being assessed for EPBCA listing as an endangered ecological community; and that the proposal is consistent with recovery plans for a range of listed threatened species.]</p>	<p>6,885,700ha of northern savannas native habitat managed to reduce threats and enhance condition and resilience.</p> <p>9,600 ha of northern savannas native habitat under strong manipulative management embedded within the “proof sites” noted above)</p> <p>Management prescriptions developed at these sites will be relevant to biodiversity conservation across all of the northern savannas.</p>	<p>“Proof” sites established, and optimal management regimes imposed.</p> <p>Conservation outcomes monitored and measured.</p> <p>Adaptive management advice developed for broad application.</p>	<p>Dec 2009 – May 2010</p> <p>May 2010 – Nov 2012</p> <p>May 2010 – May 2013</p>
<p>T2. Biodiversity and natural icons. Managing World Heritage areas.</p> <p>Identify significant emerging threats to outstanding World Heritage values.</p>	<p>2 emerging threats in two World Heritage area assessed and mitigated.</p> <p>Impacts upon native mammal fauna of fire regimes and predation by feral cats assessed for Kakadu and Purnululu NP, and areas of optimal management of these threats established, in order to improve resilience and provide secure areas for mammal biodiversity.</p>	<p>“Proof” sites established, to assess impact of threat, and to develop, test, impose and measure efficacy of primary threat management practice (Kakadu NP)</p> <p>“Proof” sites established, to assess impact of threat, and to develop, test, impose and measure efficacy of primary threat management practice (Purnululu)</p> <p>Success of threat management</p>	<p>Dec 2009 – May 2010</p> <p>July 2010 – Dec 2012</p> <p>May 2010 – Nov 2012</p>

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		<p>assessed, and management practice refined.</p> <p>Landscape-wide guidelines for best management of threat developed and appropriately communicated; and sites secure from threat maintained.</p>	<p>May 2010 – May 2013</p>
<p>T3. Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats: Protecting Ramsar wetlands</p> <p>Address invasive species threats in Ramsar wetlands and High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystems</p>	<p>Threat in 2 Ramsar sites and 1 HCVAE addressed. Impacts upon native mammal fauna of predation by feral cats assessed for Kakadu NP and Garig Gunak Barlu NP (Cobourg Peninsula), and for Mitchell River NP and areas of optimal management of this threat established, in order to provide “secure” areas for mammal biodiversity.</p>	<p>“Proof” sites established, (at Kakadu and Garig Gunag NPs) to assess impact of threat, and to develop, test, impose and measure efficacy of primary threat management practice.</p> <p>“Proof” site established (at Mitchell River NP), to assess impact of threat, and to develop, test, impose and measure efficacy of primary threat management practice.</p> <p>Success of threat management assessed, and management practice refined.</p> <p>Guidelines for best management of threat developed; and sites secure from threat maintained.</p>	<p>Dec 2009 – May 2010</p> <p>July 2010-Dec 2010</p> <p>May 2010 – Nov 2011</p> <p>May 2010 – Nov 2011</p>
<p>T4. Sustainable farm practices 6700 more farmers adopting biodiversity protection practices</p>	<p>[Directly – 3 pastoral properties (area c. 10,500 km²); guidelines then applicable far more extensively] Impacts upon native mammal fauna of pastoral management clarified for at least 3 sites, and guidelines developed for sustaining</p>	<p>Impacts upon mammal fauna of varying pastoral regimes assessed.</p> <p>Guidelines developed for pastoral management that will provide for sustaining native mammal fauna.</p> <p>Sites established with pastoral</p>	<p>May2010 -Nov 2012</p> <p>May 2010 – May 2013</p> <p>May 2009– May 2013</p>

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	biodiversity on pastoral lands in the tropical savannas.	regimes that provide for sustainable mammal faunas.	
<p>T5. Community skills, knowledge and engagement Increasing community knowledge and skills.</p> <p>Regional bodies support access to knowledge and skills.</p>	Information and training to deliver enhanced conservation outcomes through better land management practices widely available through relevant NRM Boards and other regional bodies, and widely used.	<p>Project reporting framework established within relevant regional bodies.</p> <p>Management advice derived from this project reported in appropriate formats to landholders, regional bodies and others through most appropriate channels</p>	<p>March 2010</p> <p>May 2013</p>
<p>T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.</p> <p>Increase volunteer involvement in managing natural resources</p>	<p>At least 200 volunteer-days involvement in developing conservation outcomes from this project.</p>	<p>Mechanisms for facilitating volunteer involvement established for at least 2 sites</p> <p>Volunteers routinely involved in project</p>	<p>Dec 2009</p> <p>May 2010 - Nov 2012</p>
<p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.</p> <p>Increase short-term engagement in natural resource management</p>	<p>At least 20 landholders actively engaged in this project and consequential enhanced management for biodiversity outcomes</p>	<p>Mechanisms for facilitating landholder involvement established for at least 2 sites</p> <p>Landholders routinely involved in project</p>	<p>Dec 2009</p> <p>May 2010 - Nov 2012</p>
<p>T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities</p> <p>Develop 20 partnerships with Indigenous communities</p>	<p>Two partnerships formally developed (or enhanced) with Warddeken and Anindilyakwa communities, and with Indigenous rangers and communities in Kakadu and Cobourg.</p> <p>[These partnerships will involve ongoing collaboration throughout</p>	<p>Sites established with indigenous management regimes that provide for sustainable mammal faunas (and biodiversity generally).</p> <p>Guidelines collaboratively developed for indigenous management that will provide for sustaining native mammal fauna.</p>	<p>March 2010</p> <p>May 2013</p>

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	the project, training in biodiversity assessment and monitoring, knowledge exchange, collaborative development of consequential management advice and activities, and appropriate communication and awareness.]	[Indigenous landowners will be involved with selection of treatment sites and engaged in analysis and interpretation of project knowledge. Indigenous rangers will gain experience in data collection and analysis.]	
<p>T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge.</p> <p>15 projects using/recording Indigenous traditional knowledge.</p>	<p>2 project areas that use and apply Indigenous traditional knowledge (Warddeken, Groote) to provide management insights and refine management practice for biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p>Successful two-way knowledge transfer, training and collaboration between western science and indigenous knowledge. Project will provide opportunity for indigenous experts to use their knowledge in developing long term discrete management objectives on newly declared IPAs. Indigenous knowledge of native mammals will be conserved in both oral and digital modes under indigenous control.</p>	<p>Expert knowledge of mammal fauna (and their management requirements and responses) recorded by indigenous rangers.</p> <p>Prospective “hot spots” identified by indigenous experts</p> <p>Indigenous experts involved in project data analysis and interpretation.</p> <p>Two-way transfer of knowledge on management for biodiversity outcomes, through training and on-ground project collaboration.</p>	<p>June 2010</p> <p>June 2010</p> <p>May 2010 - Nov 2012</p> <p>Dec 2011</p>

2.3 Target justification

If your proposal includes targets that are outside the target priority or preference areas, as identified in the 2009–10 business plan, provide a justification (maximum 200 words).

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This proposal specifically addresses many targets specified in the Business Plan. It particularly addresses the key area of “better environmental and natural resource outcomes in northern and remote Australia”. It is also directly relevant to the nominal large-scale project specified in the business plan *Sustainable grazing in the tropical savanna*, particularly its reference to “ensuring maintenance of the rich biodiversity of the area”, and the objective there (p. 27) of bringing together a range of managers to “improve species and community protection through actions such as improved grazing and fire management practice ... and pest control.”

The proposal includes many activities that implement or are consistent with many Recovery Plans prepared for threatened species in northern Australia.

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2.4 Please list all matters of national environmental significance that are being addressed or impacted on by your proposal

Nationally threatened and/or migratory species (as listed in the EPBC Act)	Nationally threatened ecological communities (as listed in the EPBC Act)	Sites of national and international significance (Ramsar, World Heritage, National Heritage as listed in the EPBC Act)
northern quoll	sandstone heathlands of the Arnhem land plateau (currently being assessed for EPBCA listing as an endangered ecological community)	Cobourg Peninsula (Garig Gunak Barlu NP) [Ramsar]
brush-tailed rabbit-rat		Kakadu NP [Ramsar; World Heritage]
golden bandicoot		Purnululu NP [World Heritage]
arnhem rock-rat		
golden-backed tree-rat		
northern hopping-mouse		
butler's dunnart		
carpentarian antechinus		
carpentarian rock-rat		
bilby		
water mouse		
[the proposal is likely to also benefit, indirectly, gouldian finch, partridge pigeon, northern shrike-tit, purple-crowned fairy-wren and yellow-snouted gecko]		

2.5 Does your proposal include activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on any of these matters of national environmental significance?

Yes No

If you have answered yes to this question you may need to refer these proposed activities to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts to determine if approval is required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). You can obtain more information about assessments under the Act at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/approval.html>

Note: A significant impact is an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity. Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact

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depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment which is impacted, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts. You should consider all of these factors when determining whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

2.6 Methodology – how will you deliver these targets?

- Describe how you will develop and manage the activities under your proposal.

The project will assess the biodiversity conservation outcomes of contrasting land and threat management regimes. It will concentrate on the management of fire and pest species, which are the most significant threats in North Australia. The project has a particular focus on small to medium sized mammals, because this component of biodiversity has declined most abruptly and pervasively.

The project has a strong emphasis on providing evidence to test and refine management systems for biodiversity in northern Australia (that is, it takes as a core element a commitment to a Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Improvement framework). The outcomes sought are to

- provide “proof” biodiversity-secure areas with greatest resilience.
- formulate strong management guidelines to help conserve biodiversity across the broader landscape.

A set of 9 sites, spaced across the tropical savannas, will be the key focal areas. These sites have been selected because they allow for varied management regimes, because their managers are seeking positive biodiversity outcomes, because they have a substantial foundation of previous management and conservation activities on which to build, and because they still have a diverse (if in some cases, declining) mammal fauna. The scale and management regimes considered at these sites will vary, depending upon the local severity of threats.

At four sites (Garig Gunak Barlu, Purnululu and Kakadu National Parks and Mornington-Marion Downs), we will assess the biodiversity outcomes of completely removing predation by feral cats in concert with different fire regimes. We will establish four 1 km² cat-proof exclosures [or 2 x 4 km² exclosures] and (at Garig Gunak Barlu and Mornington-Marion Downs) matched by four 1 km² (feral) stock-proof exclosures, with half in sites exposed to preferred fire regimes and half in sites exposed to non-preferred fire regimes. [Cat exclosures are required to evaluate and manage the threat to biodiversity from predation by feral cats, because other control mechanisms for cats in these regions have proven ineffective.] The conservation outcomes (and costs) arising from these variable management regimes will be monitored, through regular assessment of mammal (and species from other vertebrate classes) abundance, diversity, health and reproductive success, over the lifespan of the project. The choice of 1 to 4 km² management blocks is a pragmatic compromise between the expense of cat-exclosure fencing and the need to have areas large enough to contain adequate numbers of home ranges for individual mammal species and to demonstrate on-ground management outcomes. Should these proof areas demonstrate evidence of significant increase in resilience of mammal status, then the development of substantially larger cat exclosures would be warranted.

At two sites (Purnululu and Mitchell River NPs) we will assess the effectiveness of broad-scale cat control using a new trial bait (Para-aminopropiophenone) with a delivery system that limits non-target impacts on native fauna. This cat control will be delivered in conjunction with fine-scale fire management.

At two sites, Warddeken and Groote Eylandt, the focus will be the assessment of biodiversity outcomes from alternative management actions imposed by Indigenous managers.

- On Groote, this focuses especially on the ongoing attempts by the Anindilyakwa rangers to control (and eradicate) feral cats. Working with this ranger group, we will examine the costs and efficacy (and beneficial impacts upon biodiversity) of a range of cat control alternatives (trapping, shooting, baiting), and compare the conservation outcomes of this control with that arising from two 1 km² cat-proof exclosures.
- At Warddeken, there has been considerable recent investment (through the Western Arnhem Land Fire Abatement project) in changing fire regimes to reduce the extent of destructive late Dry season fires. We will work with the Indigenous ranger group to

monitor conservation outcomes (again, specifically targetting that component of biodiversity demonstrably of most threatened status, the native mammal fauna) from areas exposed to a recent history of intensive fire management (particularly fine-scale early dry season fires) and feral animal removal, compared with similar areas exposed to less preferred threat management.

At two pastoral properties we will measure the biodiversity outcomes of manipulating pastoral management:

- At Wongalara we will evaluate the impact of stock on biodiversity by manipulating their presence (and absence) whilst imposing best-practice fire management. We will also trial an 'ecological control' approach to feral cats, by relaxing Dingo control (a widespread practice in northern Australia) and measuring whether an increase in Dingo numbers is effective in suppressing cat numbers, and whether this has a measurable benefit to native fauna.
- At Pungalina we will evaluate whether the imposition of 'best-practice' fire management in a region where recent fire patterns are particularly poor, results in faunal recovery. The evaluations will occur both in habitats impacted by cattle and those that are not.

These components form a connected set of on-ground management and monitoring projects that provide evidence for management that can best sustain biodiversity, and can provide proof areas of demonstrable conservation outcomes. From these areas, guidelines will be developed for management for conservation and resilience outcomes across the northern savannas.

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2.7 Budget for proposal

Note that in section 2.2 of this proposal we identified that this project addressed 9 CFOC targets (labelled T1-T9 in that Table). Many activities described in this budget synchronously address many of these targets, and it is consequently difficult to tease apart budgetary items to individual target areas. In rows of this first column below, we attempt to apportion the relative contribution to each target.

Caring for our Country target(s)	Description of individual items	Total cost of item (GST excl)	Caring for our Country funding		Other source of funding			Financial year of proposed expenditure
			Funding sought (GST excl)	GST	Amount (GST excl)	Organisation	Security of funds*	
T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [90%] T3. Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats: protecting Ramsar wetlands. [10%]	cat-exclosure fencing (\$25,000/km – 8km at Garig Gunak Barlu; 16 km at Kakadu; 16 km at Mornington) plus solar power units (8 x \$10,000), establishment costs, transport of material to sites	\$1,115,000	\$1,115,000	\$111,500				2009-10
T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [60%] T2. Biodiversity and natural icons. Managing World Heritage areas. [30%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [10%]	cat-exclosure fencing (\$25,000/km x 8km (Groote), 8km Garig, plus solar power units (4 x \$10,000), establishment costs, transport of material to sites	\$485,000	\$485,000	\$48,500				2010-11
T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [80%] T3. Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats: Protecting Ramsar wetlands. [10%] T4. Sustainable farm practices 6700 more farmers adopting biodiversity protection practices [10%]	stock-fencing (\$5,000/km 8 km at Garig Gunak Barlu, 30 km at Mornington)	\$190,000	\$80,000	\$8,000	\$110,000	AWC	Allocated	2009-10
T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native	stock-fencing (\$5,000/km 8 km at	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$4,000				2010-11

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<p>habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [80%] T3. Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats: Protecting Ramsar wetlands. [10%] T4. Sustainable farm practices 6700 more farmers adopting biodiversity protection practices [10%]</p>	Garik Gunak Barlu)							
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.(volunteers) [10%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [70%]</p>	ongoing maintenance of fences	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$1,500	\$10,000	AWC	Allocated	2009-10
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [10%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [70%]</p>	ongoing maintenance of fences	\$55,000	\$40,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	AWC	Allocated	2010-11
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [10%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [70%]</p>	ongoing maintenance of fences	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	AWC	Allocated	2011-12

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<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [10%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [70%]</p>	ongoing maintenance of fences	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$10,000 \$10,000	AWC DEC	Allocated	2012-13
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [80%]</p>	de-stocking fences Year 1 (Mornington, Wongalara)	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$60,000	AWC	Allocated	2009-10
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [80%]</p>	de-stocking fences Year 2 (Mornington, Wongalara)	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$60,000	AWC	Allocated	2010-11
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [80%]</p>	de-stocking fences Year 3 (Mornington, Wongalara)	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$60,000	AWC	Allocated	2011-12
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [20%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [80%]</p>	de-stocking fences Year 4 (Mornington, Wongalara)	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$1,400	\$60,000	AWC	Allocated	2012-13

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<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	<p>equipment for assessment of biodiversity outcomes [mammal traps; remote cameras and other monitoring eqpmt] ##</p>	<p>\$135,000</p>	<p>\$110,000</p>	<p>\$11,000</p>	<p>\$15,000 \$10,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2009-10</p>
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	<p>equipment for assessment of biodiversity outcomes: mammal traps; remote cameras and other monitoring eqpmt ##</p>	<p>\$194,200</p>	<p>\$169,200</p>	<p>\$16,920</p>	<p>\$15,000 \$10,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2010-11</p>
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	<p>equipment for assessment of biodiversity outcomes : mammal traps; remote cameras and other monitoring eqpmt ##</p>	<p>\$134,200</p>	<p>\$109,200</p>	<p>\$10,920</p>	<p>\$15,000 \$10,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2011-12</p>
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	<p>equipment for assessment of biodiversity outcomes : mammal traps; remote cameras and other monitoring eqpmt ##</p>	<p>\$124,200</p>	<p>\$99,200</p>	<p>\$9,920</p>	<p>\$15,000 \$10,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2012-13</p>

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<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [60%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [40%]</p>	disease testing	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$1,500				2009-10
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [60%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [40%]</p>	disease testing	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$2,000				2010-11
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [60%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [40%]</p>	disease testing	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$2,000				2011-12
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [60%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [40%]</p>	disease testing	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$2,000				2012-13
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	travel and transport	\$155,000	\$115,000	\$11,500	\$40,000	AWC	Allocated	2009-10
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement:</p>	travel and transport	\$306,000	\$266,000	\$26,600	\$40,000	AWC	Allocated	2010-11

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<p>and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>								
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	travel and transport	\$298,500	\$258,500	\$25,850	\$40,000	AWC	Allocated	2011-12
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [40%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	travel and transport	\$298,500	\$258,500	\$125,850	\$40,000	AWC	Allocated	2012-13
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [50%] T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.(volunteers) [10%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	personnel (from CFOC – 33% project officer, 33% project assistant, \$10k to maintenance ranger [Garig]; 33% project officer, 33% project assistant, \$10k to maintenance ranger [Kakadu]; 33% project officer, 33% project assistant, \$50k to Indigenous officer [Warddeken]; 60% project officer + \$10k	\$648,000	\$353,000	\$35,300	\$130,000 \$165,000	AWC NRETAS	Allocated Allocated	2009-10

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	(assistants) [Mornington]; 40% project officer + \$5k (assistants) [for each of Pungalina and Wongalara]; from NRETAS 100% project officer and project assistant; from AWC 35% project supervisor + \$90k (assistants); from DEC 100% project supervisor]							
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [50%]</p> <p>T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.(volunteers) [10%]</p> <p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%]</p> <p>T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	<p>personnel [as above, plus for Groote – from CFOC – 33% project officer, 33% project assistant; 100% Indigenous oproject officer; 100% project officer [DEC] - from NRETAS – 33% project officer and 33% project assistant; from DEC 100% project officer]</p>	\$1,012,000	\$582,000	\$58,200	\$120,000 \$220,000 \$90,000	AWC NRETAS DEC	Allocated Allocated Allocated	2010-11
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [50%]</p> <p>T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.(volunteers) [10%]</p> <p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%]</p> <p>T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	<p>personnel [as above, except without 33% project officer (CFOC), Groote]</p>	\$982,000	\$552,000	\$55,200	\$120,000 \$220,000 \$90,000	AWC NRETAS DEC	Allocated Allocated Allocated	2011-12

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<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [50%] T6. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.(volunteers) [10%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p>	personnel [as above]	\$982,000	\$552,000	\$55,200	\$120,000 \$220,000 \$90,000	AWC NRETAS DEC	Allocated Allocated Allocated	2012-13
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%] T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [20%]</p>	management of fire	\$170,000			\$120,000 \$50,000	AWC Warddeken	Allocated Allocated	2009-10
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%] T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [20%]</p>	management of fire	\$220,000			\$120,000 \$50,000 \$50,000	AWC Warddeken DEC	Allocated Allocated Allocated	2010-11

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<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%] T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [20%]</p>	management of fire	\$220,000			\$120,000 \$50,000 \$50,000	AWC Warddeken DEC	Allocated Allocated Allocated	2011-12
<p>T1. Biodiversity and natural icons. 400,000 ha increase in area of native habitat managed to reduce critical threats. [40%] T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%] T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [20%]</p>	management of fire	\$220,000			\$120,000 \$50,000 \$50,000	AWC Warddeken DEC	Allocated Allocated Allocated	2012-13
<p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.</p>	provision of remote area infrastructure & project support	\$30,000			\$30,000	AWC	Allocated	2009-10
<p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.</p>	provision of remote area infrastructure & project support	\$30,000			\$30,000	AWC	Allocated	2010-11
<p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.</p>	provision of remote area infrastructure & project support	\$30,000			\$30,000	AWC	Allocated	2011-12
<p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management.</p>	provision of remote area infrastructure & project support	\$30,000			\$30,000	AWC	Allocated	2012-13

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<p>T5. Community skills, knowledge and engagement Increasing community knowledge and skills. Regional bodies support access to knowledge and skills. (50%)</p> <p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%]</p> <p>T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p> <p>T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [10%]</p>	<p>project communication and provision of guidelines on management improvement ##</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>\$10,000</p>	<p>\$1,000</p>	<p>\$5,000 \$5,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2009-10</p>
<p>T5. Community skills, knowledge and engagement Increasing community knowledge and skills. Regional bodies support access to knowledge and skills. (50%)</p> <p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%]</p> <p>T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p> <p>T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [10%]</p>	<p>project communication (as above) ##</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>\$2,000</p>	<p>\$5,000 \$5,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2010-11</p>
<p>T5. Community skills, knowledge and engagement Increasing community knowledge and skills. Regional bodies support access to knowledge and skills. (50%)</p> <p>T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%]</p> <p>T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%]</p> <p>T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional</p>	<p>project communication (as above) ##</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>\$2,000</p>	<p>\$5,000 \$5,000</p>	<p>AWC NRETAS</p>	<p>Allocated Allocated</p>	<p>2011-12</p>

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ecological knowledge. [10%]								
T5. Community skills, knowledge and engagement Increasing community knowledge and skills. Regional bodies support access to knowledge and skills. (50%) T7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Increasing participation in natural resource management. [20%] T8. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Engaging Indigenous communities [20%] T9. Community skills, knowledge and engagement: Utilising traditional ecological knowledge. [10%]	project communication (as above) ##	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$3,000	\$10,000 \$10,000	AWC NRETAS	Allocated Allocated	2012-13
	project administration and Advisory Group (participation of technical expertise)	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$2000	\$10,000	NRETAS	Allocated	2009-10
	project administration and Advisory Group (participation of technical expertise)	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$2000	\$10,000	NRETAS	Allocated	2010-11
	project administration and Advisory Group (participation of technical expertise)	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$2000	\$10,000	NRETAS	Allocated	2011-12
	project administration and Advisory Group (participation of technical expertise)	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$2000	\$10,000	NRETAS	Allocated	2012-13
	project auditing	\$10,000			\$10,000	NRETAS	Allocated	2012-13
Total		\$8,849,600	\$5,574,600	\$557,460	\$3,275,000			

***Security of funds** - In hand; Committed; Allocated; Dependent on fund raising; Application submitted.
 ## identifies items that are specifically MERI.

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Summary of budget across each financial year

Financial year of proposed expenditure	Total \$ (GST exclusive)	Total GST claimable
Total Caring for our Country requested funds 2009–10	\$1,843,00	\$184,300
Total Caring for our Country requested funds 2010–11	\$1,652,200	\$165,220
Total Caring for our Country requested funds 2011–12	\$1,039,700	\$103,970
Total Caring for our Country requested funds 2012–13	\$1,039,700	\$103,970

2.8 Budget justification

Outline how this proposal is good value for money for the Australian Government (maximum 200 words).

This project directly addresses one of Australia's most significant biodiversity conservation challenges (including in World Heritage reserves). It seeks management solutions in carefully-selected and intensively managed "proof areas", in which the link between management inputs and conservation outcomes can be demonstrated specifically and with most efficiency of investment. This approach will be substantially more effective and cheaper than attempts to provide less controlled management across initially much broader areas, and it will provide an explicit assessment of costs and benefits of management practices, and the extent to which these need to be applied far more broadly. (For example, it is currently considered unfeasible and prohibitively expensive to attempt to control cats across the tropical savannas, but such assessment is based largely on lack of knowledge of their impacts upon biodiversity. Should this project provide unarguable demonstration that cats are a primary cause of mammal decline in northern Australia, then there will be a far stronger case for developing broad-scale cost-effective control mechanisms).

The project is good value for money in that it makes use of much existing infrastructure, personnel and capability provided by NT NRETAS, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Warddeken, WA Department of Environment and Conservation, and Parks Australian North, and capitalises on existing management inputs at a range of national parks and other protected areas. It also involves commitments of about \$3 million in in-kind and direct financial contributions to this project from the project partners.

The project is good value for money for the Australian Government in that it simultaneously addresses very many of the priority target areas of the Caring For Our Country program.

The project is good value for money in that it provides a suitable model for incisive assessment of management options and development of management improvements, that would be applicable far more generically across Australia.

SECTION 4: PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Describe the capability and capacity of your organisation to implement this proposal

Detail the skills and resources you have available to enable your organisation to successfully complete this project within the budget and timeframe outlined (maximum 200 words).

This project was developed following a workshop held in Darwin in February 2009, of individuals from over 20 agencies and management bodies concerned about the decline of mammals (and biodiversity conservation more generally) across northern Australia. All agencies and experts at that workshop endorsed the priority of the actions described in this proposal.

The primary proponent in this partnership, NT NRETAS, has well-recognised capability in research and management of biodiversity in the Northern Territory, with particular capability in linking research with management delivery across extensive areas. NRETAS personnel are the recognised experts in mammal conservation and biodiversity management in the Northern Territory. NRETAS has a mature and constructive collaboration with the Aboriginal agencies involved in this project.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy has an excellent record of developing and applying management for optimising conservation outcomes in Australia, especially in northern Australia. The AWC principal staff in this project, Dr Sarah Legge, is recognised as having particular expertise in the development and application of management for conservation outcomes.

As with NT NRETAS, in WA DEC is the recognised State authority in land management and biodiversity conservation.

Warddeken and Anindilyakwa rangers involved in this project have recognised expertise in knowledge and management of their country.

All agencies involved in this project have substantial and successful experience with managing external monies and large projects.

4.2 Governance arrangements

Outline the governance arrangements you have in place to ensure that your partners and subcontractors will deliver their contributions in a timely and efficient manner (maximum 200 words).

NRETAS has a long and successful history of working with indigenous agencies and ranger groups on large collaborative and externally-funded projects, and has good institutional mechanisms for the governance of such projects.

For this project, one NRETAS senior staff member will be responsible for overall project coordination and will be assisted by a project advisory committee comprising representatives of landholders, specialist advisors and all other parties involved. A Memorandum of Understanding will be established to provide clear working arrangements amongst the collaborating organisations. Administration support based in Darwin will work collaboratively with remotely based staff. A Project Advisory Group including representation of all partners, landholder-groups and supporting organisations, will meet regularly throughout the course of the project (for year one at 3 monthly intervals; for years 2-4 at 6-monthly intervals), and maintain frequent communication between meetings.

At each proof site, project delivery will be the responsibility of one or more of the partner organisations, as identified in Section 2.1.

MERI based reporting will ensure appropriate oversight of activities and timely and high-quality

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delivery against milestones.

4.3 Overdue reports and acquittals

List any overdue reports and acquittals you have from previous Australian Government environmental and natural resource management funding, and when you expect these to be completed.

Funding source (program or initiative)	Project title	Date the report was due	Expected submission date
NIL			

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4.4 Risk management

Define the major risks associated with this proposal and what management actions you will put in place to minimise or avoid these risks.

What are the risks?	Consequence	Likelihood of it occurring	Overall risk	Mitigation strategy
Staffing - Delays in staff recruitment.	Minor	Possible	Low	The key supervisory staff are already in place. Our recent job advertisements for similar positions have produced a substantial surplus of suitable applicants.
Staffing - Staff turnover and changes in personnel, due to unforeseen circumstances	Minor	Possible	Low	Redeploy existing staff if necessary to ensure project continuity. Ensure skill sets are widely transferred between staff, and standard operating procedures are documented.
Project management – Delays in receiving CFOC funds	Major	Possible	Medium	Maintain engagement with CFOC administrators.
Partnership - Individuals and agencies with an interest in the Project will not have enough time to devote to implementing project activities	Moderate	Possible	Medium	All potential collaborators will be approached as early as possible within the Project timeframe to gauge their availability and interest. Research and management plans will be developed in collaboration with potential project collaborators.
Social - Indigenous communities will not be able to participate as planned due to problems with accessing country due to unplanned cultural commitments or other unforeseen events.	Minor	Likely	Medium	Where appropriate, alternative project sites and activities will be developed through the planning phase of the Project
Environmental - Adverse or unpredictable weather restricts access to field sites or limits operations	Moderate	Possible	Medium	Schedule field work in optimum periods. Reschedule or refocus events as necessary
Environmental – unpredicted catastrophic events may damage project infrastructure (e.g. fencing)	Moderate	Possible	Medium	Procedures will be developed to ensure frequent checks on infrastructure condition, and rapid response to damage.
Design – responses to management actions may not be apparent until after the timeframe of this project, or swamped by other uncontrolled factors	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Project proponents will be committed to enduring assessments of management interventions beyond the life of this project.

4.5 Public benefit

Outline how your project will deliver a substantial public benefit and how you will ensure that the proposal has lasting benefits without additional funding (maximum 200 words).

The major public benefit of this project is in robustly and directly addressing the key biodiversity conservation challenge in northern Australia, and deriving conservation management outcomes that will provide for (biodiversity) sustainability across this extensive area. The project will for the first time clearly partition the biodiversity impacts due to different and compounding threatening factors, thereby allowing for ongoing management of the most damaging threats to be prioritised appropriately.

The “proof area” concept is a cost-effective approach to this issue that can provide lasting lessons for biodiversity conservation and land management across very extensive areas and across tenures managed by diverse sectors.

Reducing the decline of threatened iconic mammal species of national environmental significance is a public benefit in itself, however the benefits of this project are broader than this.

- Many land managers have the desire to conserve biodiversity on their land but lack the knowledge or effective tools to do so. This project will help to provide answers and proven recommendations for land managers.
- Lasting benefits will include trained people, shared knowledge at a local and landscape scale, improved monitoring skills, healthier country and empowered land managers.
- The development of the proof sites also provides a higher degree of resilience by diversifying the landscape, providing refugia and a choice of environments for species to adapt within.

The project represents a particularly strategic and coordinated effort to better protect nationally threatened and iconic species, and will contribute substantially to the protection of important natural assets in northern and remote Australia, a region that contains some of the most intact high conservation value landscapes and cultural values in Australia.

4.6 How will you communicate the results of your project?

Detail how you will disseminate the learnings and achievements of this proposal. Identify the target audiences and the expected opportunities for the recognition of Australian Government funding (maximum 200 words).

The project will develop a detailed communications strategy within the first 3 months of commencement, with inputs from the media and communications specialists of the involved agencies. A website for this project will be established within 2 months of project commencement. All communication mechanisms and products will ensure recognition of project partners, supporting organisations and the Australian Government.

The project specifically aims to extend the project results to be applicable throughout the tropical savannas, so appropriate advice will be encapsulated in formats specifically for park management planning, property management plans for pastoral properties, Indigenous land management toolkits and training, tertiary curricula and land management courses.

Target audience will include

- Landholders and managers in northern Australia
- Indigenous and other community groups across northern Australia
- NRM groups and other land management bodies
- State, territory and federal governments
- the public generally.

All communications material associated with the project will include project partner logos and recognition of Australian Government funding as per the Caring for our Country guidelines.

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4.7 Devolved grants

If you are seeking funding for a devolved grants component outline

- the type of devolved grants, market-based instrument or economic incentive that will be used to deliver the Caring for our Country target(s)
- how this will best address the relevant target(s)
- the area being targeted
- the target audience and likely degree of adoption
- the size of the grants/incentives for groups
- the expected administration costs for your organisation to run these grants
- how much funding will be delivered to on-ground activities (maximum 300 words).

Nil

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SECTION 5: PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT DETAILS

5.1 Partnership arrangements

List any organisations that are partners in delivering this proposal. If you do not have any partner organisations for this proposal, please write 'Not applicable' in the table provided below.

Name of partnering organisation	ABN	Address	Role in the project (maximum 100 words)
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	36 068 572 556	Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary, PMB 925, Derby, WA 6728	Partner and active participant in on-ground management and assessment of biodiversity outcomes. Major focus for "proof sites" demonstrating conservation outcomes and enhanced resilience. Major contribution to project design and supervision.
Parks Australia (North)	13 051 694 963	Kakadu National Park, PO Box 71, Jabiru, NT 0886	Partner and active participant in on-ground management and assessment of biodiversity outcomes. Major focus for "proof site" demonstrating conservation outcomes and enhanced resilience.
Warddeken Land Management Limited	12 128 878 142	Kabulwarnamy c/- PO Box 785 Nightcliff, NT 0814	Partner and active participant in on-ground management and assessment of biodiversity outcomes; providing indigenous expert knowledge and ranger labour, brokering of land use arrangements with indigenous landowners and NLC
Anindilyakwa Land Council	45 175 406 445	30 Bougainvillea Drive, PO Box 172, Alyangula, NT 0885	Partner and active participant in on-ground management and assessment of biodiversity outcomes; providing indigenous expert knowledge and ranger labour, brokering of land use arrangements with indigenous landowners
WA Department of Environment and Conservation	38052249024	Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Bentley, WA 6983	Partner and active participant in on-ground management and assessment of biodiversity outcomes at Purnululu and Mitchell River NPs. Major focus for "proof sites" demonstrating conservation outcomes and enhanced resilience, and consequential adaptive management. Significant contribution to project design and supervision.

5.2 Support for your proposal

Please list the organisations or individuals that are providing technical support to your proposal, but are not considered direct partners.

Names of organisations supporting your proposal	Contact person	Contact phone number	Type of support being provided
James Cook University	Professor Chris Johnson	(07) 47 814141	Input into validity of project design; opportunity to value-add to project (e.g. through students)

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			and research staff examining other components of biodiversity in addition to mammals)
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems	Dr Iain Gordon	07 4753 8509	Input into validity of project design; opportunity to value-add to project (e.g. through students and research staff examining other components of biodiversity in addition to mammals)
WWF Threatened Species Network	Brydie Hill	08 8941 7554	Community engagement, communications: assistance and contribution to the development of the communication strategy.

5.3 How will you engage the community in your project?

Outline how the community will be engaged in your project and the scale of this involvement, including the potential to raise community awareness and enhance skills, and the engagement of Indigenous communities (maximum 300 words).

The proponents have had many years experience building and sustaining effective collaborative partnerships for on-ground management and biodiversity assessment and monitoring with Indigenous groups and other communities, including in most of the focal areas of this project. Indigenous rangers and ranger groups will be key participants in all activities in the Garig Gunak Barlu, Kakadu, Groote Eylandt, Warddeken and Pungalina-Seven Emu project areas. Working together with these groups (including training for appropriate management and monitoring skills) on their lands will be the key mechanism for engagement and awareness; however, we will also use appropriate communication tools (story books, videos, and on-ground meetings) to provide effective engagement at project outset, progress and completion.

In Western Arnhem Land Warddeken Land Management Limited, its members, directors and rangers spread across the region, will promote understanding of the knowledge of the project. WLML will broker interaction between indigenous expert and western scientists in planning research and OGW management. Rangers and landowners will be involved in field work with scientists and also independently. Rangers will learn survey techniques from science staff and TEK from indigenous experts. Rangers will be engaged with interpretation of project data and incorporate project data into their IPA management resources.

Project partners and collaborators include a state conservation agency, the Australian environment department, a non-government conservation group, and a range of Indigenous groups; and the communication facilities of these groups will be used to promote community awareness, including to a far wider audience than those directly involved in this project. The mechanisms for this communication and awareness will include facilitating volunteer engagement in all aspects of the project, media, website delivery (including through the proposed information portal of the NRM Board (NT) proposed CFOC project), and communication products delivered in appropriate formats to a wide range of target audiences.

5.4 Are you aware of any other projects or proposals which are related to this proposal?

Identify any other proposals that are linked to this one, and any projects that you are aware of that may have synergies with this one (maximum 300 words).

This project has some relationships with a range of other proposals, and the project proponents have liaised with the proponents of these other projects to ensure complementarity and synergy.

Related projects include:

- a *biodiversity and social benchmarking* medium-sized proposal to be submitted by Charles Darwin University (NAILSMA). That project differs from our proposal in considering only the management of fire, in being restricted to 3-4 areas, and in not explicitly focusing on the key element of biodiversity decline in northern Australia – the native mammal fauna.
- a *sustainable grazing in northern Australia* large-scale proposal to be submitted by MLA and others. That project differs from our proposal in its subdued consideration of biodiversity outcomes and management for biodiversity, by not considering impacts of cats, and by not focusing on the key element of biodiversity decline in northern Australia – the native mammal fauna.
- a *Warddeken IPA* proposal, that will focus on extensive fire and other threat management.
- an *Eco-link* proposal submitted by NT NRETAS that will help develop broad-scale landscape conservation connectivity, in part through the development of covenants.
- *North Kimberley Biodiversity Conservation Initiative*, led by WA DEC, focuses on threat management (of fire and stock), and NRS expansion. It differs from our proposal in not addressing the issue of predation by cats, nor having a focus on native mammals..
- *A landscape scale approach to land and Water management in the iconic Fitzroy River catchment*, submitted by Rangelands NRM, will deliver regional co-ordinated management

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and measure biodiversity response, but without a focus on mammals, and without controlling cats.

- *A biodiversity survey and stock control proposal* submitted by Dunkeld Pastoral Company/Adelaide Zoo; *this project does not have an explicit focus on small mammal response to management.*
- *Communities building resilience for biodiversity* a national program supporting implementation of recovery actions for flagship threatened species by community members submitted by WWF. Declining mammals are not a flagship species for this project. However, this project will support community engagement and communications aspects of the current proposal.
- *Knowledge management to improve natural resource management capacity across northern Australia* (Northern Alliance/NRM Board (NT) – Our project will provide management information and advice for conservation outcomes to this project for dissemination amongst landholders and others.

We are aware of some other possible proposals that may provide local-scale management enhancements and may measure biodiversity outcomes associated with such investment. However, these are likely to provide a less systematic and pervasive assessment of, and advice about, conservation management than that of our project.

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SECTION 6: LOCATION DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

6.1 State and/or Territories

Select the relevant box(es) indicating in which State(s) and/or Territories your project will be located.

<input type="checkbox"/> Australian Capital Territory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Queensland	<input type="checkbox"/> Victoria
<input type="checkbox"/> New South Wales	<input type="checkbox"/> South Australia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Australia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Territory	<input type="checkbox"/> Tasmania	<input type="checkbox"/> External Territory

6.2 Natural resource management region(s)

List the natural resource management region(s) in which your proposal will be undertaken. If unsure of the name of the relevant region, check <http://www.nrm.gov.au/nrm/region.html>

NRM Region(s)
Northern Territory
Rangelands (WA)
Cape York (Qld)
Northern Gulf (Qld)

6.3 Nearest town or named locality

Identify the nearest town or named locality to your project. If your project is across a large area, choose a central point.

Darwin

6.4 Latitude and longitude

Provide the latitude and longitude of your project in decimal degrees. If your proposal covers a large area, provide the latitude and longitude of a point at the centre of the project area.

Location of your proposal - Latitude - e.g. 19.7778

Location of your proposal - Longitude + e.g. 151.3579

Information on latitudes and longitudes is at <http://www.environment.gov.au/erin/tools/index.html>.

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SECTION 8: DECLARATIONS

8.1 Proponents should note that, by completing and submitting this proposal, they agree to the following statements.

I certify that:

- to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this proposal is complete and correct and no information is false or misleading. I understand that it is an offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* to provide false or misleading information
- I understand that the Australian Government is under no obligation to provide funding for this proposal, except for the regional base-level funding for the regional natural resource management organisations
- I understand that the Australian Government assumes no responsibility for any investment in activities relating to this proposal that are made before the formation of a contract with the Government
- I/the organisation I represent supports this proposal and, if successful, agrees to enter into a contract with the Australian Government to deliver the proposal and administer the proposal's funding
- I have the agreement of all partners to the contents of this proposal
- I will spend the funding and implement the proposal in the ways described in the proposal, unless otherwise agreed by all parties
- the proposal has not already received funding in part or in full from any other funding source, except as identified in this proposal
- I/the organisation I represent understand that any payments made by the Australian Government in relation to this proposal are subject to the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services) Act 1999*
- I consent, on behalf of all parties, to this proposal being referred to third parties for assessment purposes
- I understand that the Australian Government may undertake external assessments or feasibility studies in relation to this proposal
- I understand that the Australian Government may undertake to negotiate components of this proposal to ensure that the most appropriate package for investment and delivery of Caring for our Country targets is in place
- I understand that, if my proposal is successful, the Australian Government may place non-commercially confidential information relating to it into the public domain
- I agree that I accept full responsibility to ensure that all of the necessary planning, regulatory and other approvals, permits and permissions are obtained before commencing this proposal

If submitted in hardcopy by mail or delivery – please ensure the person who would sign the contract completes and signs this section.

Signature	<input type="text"/>
Name	JIM GRANT
Position in organisation	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Organisation	NT DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS
Date	APRIL 2009

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If submitted by email, please ensure it is emailed to applications2009@nrm.gov.au by the person in the lead organisation who will sign the contract if successful.

The Australian Government thanks you for your interest in Caring for our Country and for the time and effort you have made in preparing this proposal.