



COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT



This project is funded by the Waste Authority through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

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|-------------------------|--|
| Contract number: | 761 |
| Organisation: | ABC Foundation |
| Project Title: | Don't Rubbish Country – a FREE car recycling program |
| Grant Amount: | \$7,725.65 excl GST (\$6,528.60 excl GST spent) |



**ABC
Foundation**



Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation

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ORGANISATION & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- **A brief overview of your organisation/group.**
- **A detailed description of the project, including your anticipated goals and outcomes /achievements.**

ABC Foundation Ltd (ABCFL) is a social enterprise delivering Aboriginal Environmental Education Programs and Economic Development Services, placing Aboriginal people within the present conservation economy. ABC Foundation currently delivers Community Development Program activities through a Joint Venture agreement MAX Employment in Carnarvon with 181 participants on our case load.

Along with our training and employment programs, ABCFL also delivers an education awareness program called “Don’t Rubbish Country”, aimed at educating the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community on the impacts of waste and what can be done to reduce waste in landfill. This project aims to incorporate its education campaign “Don’t Rubbish Country” and its “Community Development Program” in offering a free car removal and recycling program in Carnarvon, with the aim that the participants will reuse, recycle or repurpose all items on the cars before they go to landfill. Anything recyclable from the copper wiring, rear view mirrors, tyres, cat converters, radiators etc. was to be pulled off of the car.

In 2017, we initiated this project idea through a partnership with the Department of Communities (Housing), to communicate out to the residents in Carnarvon that ABCFL would like to offer a free car removal service as residents were struggling to meet the costs for removing cars, which was anywhere between \$100 - \$500 in Carnarvon, and were at risk of becoming evicted from their homes. Although there was a high demand for the service, ABCFL was initially limited in offering it more than once or twice per month, as we had not been able to source or fund the purchase of a car trailer and hiring it from Mitre 10 had become unviable for a free program.

At this same time, ABCFL had also started conversations with the Shire of Carnarvon to work in partnership and provide a base at the Carnarvon Waste Facility for the participants to bring the collected cars to and have a safe and appropriate place to strip the cars. The Shire arranged to have the stock piled for SIMS metals to come and collect once a year for recycling stopping them from going to landfill. The Shire is also in the process of building a purpose-built Tip Shop, with a strategic focus to reduce its waste to landfill, making reusable items available for purchase. Once established, this will also provide an avenue for ABCFL to sell its recycled car parts through a consignment arrangement with the Shire, creating a financial incentive for the participants collecting the cars.

In 2018, ABCFL was awarded a Grant from the WA Waste Authority to purchase a car trailer and materials for erecting a sun shade at the Carnarvon Waste Facility and we were able to pull together all of our plans and offer our free car removal service knowing that the vehicles were going to be recycled.



EVALUATION / RESULTS - DATA

What kind(s) of project data/information did you collect?

Since inception of the free car removal program, ABCFL has collected 37 vehicles since July 2018. Initially, removals were scheduled monthly. Since the purchase of our trailer, removals have been on a weekly basis.

Of these, 13 have been completely stripped and have had items placed into the tip shop. These 13 car shells are awaiting annual collection by SIMs Metal which has been organised by the Shire of Carnarvon.

The remaining 24 cars are in various stages of being recycled.

We have made \$672 in sales through the tip shop, 31 items have been sold to date.

We are yet to employ staff as the tip shop is open by appointment only, instead we are paying our supervisors (2) for additional time worked.

Was your project successful in the way you expected?

Did you achieve what you set out to do? (did you reuse/reduce/recycle as much as you had planned to?) If not, what happened?

YES

NO

Yes, but not entirely – as stated previously, we were looking to increase local employment by creating jobs at the newly established Tip Shop and this has not come to fruition yet.

We hope with time that the project will be able to generate more income to allow employing additional staff but as yet, we have not had a large turnover of stock meaning that employing an additional staff member is not yet viable.

Adding to this - unfortunately, our CDP Contract was not renewed in the Gascoyne Region for 2019 onwards meaning that we are no longer able to continue to fund staff internally. Our internal timeline of supporting this project until January 2020 has now been drastically cut as we weigh up our commitments within the region, we are now only able to fund our supervisors for additional work in the shop until June 30, 2019.

Do you feel your project made a positive difference in your community and why?

YES

NO

The ABC Foundation 'Don't Rubbish Country' program has made a positive difference to the community and the free car removal program has added another layer to that.

The Free Car Removal Program has benefitted the environment but also has many social benefits.

One of the responsibilities of people leasing properties from the Department of Housing is that they must pass quarterly inspections, at these inspections the properties are checked to ensure:

1. That the interior is being kept in generally the same condition as when they were let;
2. That the lessee has maintained items they are responsible to under their lease i.e. fire alarms, screen doors, windows etc; and
3. That the grounds of the property are being kept in a clean and tidy manner.

During these inspections, the storage of broken-down vehicles on properties are marked as both a fire and environmental hazard leaving residents who store vehicles on their property open to eviction at the discretion of the Department of Communities.



One way which the residents of Mungullah got around this was to move all broken vehicles to an empty lot in the community, as seen here in a photo taken by Stephen Antonopoulos©. In this photo the children are using this as a playground, but the vehicles were more likely to be used for spare parts if possible and then left to sit after that.

These vehicles pictured are for the most part removed, there are only 3 vehicles that we are unable to take as they have gas tanks which must be disconnected by a qualified LPG fitter. The remaining vehicles have had as many pieces as possible salvaged and placed into the shop for sale.

With the removal of these vehicles plus consistent monthly community working bees, the general aesthetics of the community has improved greatly to a level where the Mungullah community was nominated and named as a finalist in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2018.



How many people do you think your project has reached/affected?

Straight away – it is easy to state that the community of Mungullah and their approximate 200 residents have been positively affected by this project as the removal of the vehicles on their shared land being the catalyst for community working bees culminating in their nomination for a Tidy Towns award.



We can also state confidently that our project has reached the 20 – 25 CDP participants who have committed to the mechanical activity now run through the workshop in our Activity Hub space.



LESSONS LEARNT

What lessons were learned through the project – what worked and didn't work? What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again?

I think the main lesson we learnt was to set a realistic timeframe for this project. During the application process the timeline was deemed to only be purchasing of and setting up the infrastructure. This did not allow enough time to collect data, expand the tip shop and measure outcomes.

Did you encounter any problems/challenges in carrying out the project? If so, what were they?

We encountered a problem early on when purchasing a car trailer (the main component of the grant funding). The original quote, when we went to put in an order, had a number of hidden costs as well as transport costs which blew the budget and made the option of buying a new trailer unviable. The CEO managed to find a suitable (almost new) trailer when driving through Geraldton on the side of the road and purchased it from a private seller which was great timing.

This then allowed for some additional funding to be used to purchase some steel and equipment to build cages to store the parts as we as place a cage on a box trailer which was also used to transport parts to and from the tip shop and community areas.

A problem that we faced early in our project was that while our CDP participants are familiar with cars, they are not qualified mechanics and we found that some pieces were damaged during the removal process. To combat this, we brought in external help and engaged a mechanic to spend the day with our group of participants working through various removals to give them the skills and confidence to complete removals on their own.

The CDP Participants loved this part of the project and it has been so popular that we have actually extended mechanics to be a registered activity under the CDP Contract.

An example of this is below where our staff member, Stanley Hill, is pictured installing a recycled radiator hose into a vehicle. This hose was purchased through the Tip Shop for \$5 with the equivalent new part currently being sold in the local Repco for \$38.99.



We are fortunate enough to have a hydraulic engine hoist in the workshop at our office space in Carnarvon which is designed to remove engines. We are going to continue building on the theme of mechanics over the next few months.

Another challenge that we faced during this project was finding staff who were able to assess the quality of removed pieces of cars ie. Is this starter motor in good enough condition that it can be sold, or does it need to be scrapped?

As we were unable to always verify the longevity of the items we were selling, we had to establish a warranty system. So, if the item was purchased for less than \$100 there was no warranty on the item but for larger items ie. a radiator that was sold for \$135, after inspection and testing by our staff we gave the customer a warranty of 5000kms meaning if the radiator failed within 5000kms of installation we would refund the cost of the radiator in full. This warranty is negotiated on a case by case basis though so will continue to be a topic of conversation throughout the lifetime of the shop.



What advice would you give to other groups considering undertaking similar projects?

The best piece of advice we could give other groups is to ensure that you have support early from local council and government bodies. Without the support of the Shire of Carnarvon and the Department of Housing, we would not have been able to pursue this project and get it to where it is today. Without the funds received through this grant, we would still be hiring a trailer once a month and not able to increase momentum with this project.

The second piece of advice that we would give groups is to develop a network of qualified mechanics. Our CDP Participants while passionate about cars, are not qualified but our main office is located next to crash repairs / mechanics workshop so we have been able to seek professional advice as needed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / PROMOTION

Does your organisation (or project) have a website or Facebook page?

Yes, we have a website and both Facebook and Instagram

Website - www.abcau.com.au

Facebook - facebook.com/ABCFoundationLtd

Instagram - instagram.com/abcfoundationltd

How did you acknowledge the Community Grants Scheme funding you received?

The ABC Foundation acknowledged the funds received from the Waste Authority on all advertising material as detailed in Appendix A.

This advertising material has been shared on our Facebook account and through our networks in the Carnarvon community. It appears on community notice boards, in the MAX Employment office, in the Department of Communities (Housing) office and is part of the induction pack handed out to new CDP Participants as they enter the program.

Did you purchase any capital equipment with your grant money? (this includes things like sheds and large pieces of equipment)

If so, what did you buy? Please include photos of the equipment

Funds received were used to purchase a trailer and materials to build a sun shade
Pictures are attached.



Were there any promotional / media opportunities for the project? (newspaper articles, photos) If yes, please ensure you attach copies or include screen prints

YES

NO

Please see Appendix A for copies of promotional material.

Did you produce any promotional material for the project? (flyers, brochures even screen prints of online promotion – Facebook posts etc) If yes, please ensure you attach copies or include screen prints

YES

NO

Please see Appendix A for copies of promotional material.

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Were you able to complete your project in the approved timeframe?

YES

NO

If there were variations or extensions, what were the cause(s)?

The extension for our grant was related to the return of the grant acquittal.

When writing the grant application, the timeline was set quite short to allow the purchase of infrastructure and setting up the shop.

We should have extended this out further to allow the shop to be established for a longer time so that we could collect data and measure outcomes over a longer period.

We also had savings at the end of the project, and allocated that to signage for the car trailer. This however took time and caused delays, as the acquittal reports could not be confirmed until all the grant monies were spent.

We have also required an extension on the project, due to the acquittal process and communicating the changes we made with the financial expenditure and having key staff managing the financial component leave which has created significant delays.



FUTURE PROJECTS

Did any opportunities or ideas arise during the project?

YES

NO

The opportunity arose during the project to have a monthly collection for scrap metal from Gascoyne Junction, a small community 175km east of Carnarvon.

Unfortunately, we were unable to bring this idea to fruition due to several factors:

1. The small number of CDP Participants (7) were not wanting to be involved in the project;
2. Carnarvon CDP Participants were unable to make day trips worthwhile due to the distance and travelling time (5 hour days); and
3. The Aboriginal Community who were already using the abandoned vehicles for spare parts were not wanting these vehicles to be removed.

Do you now have ideas for other future projects?

No, there are no current plans for additional 'Don't Rubbish Country' projects instead we are focusing on building on the Tip Shop and ensuring this is sustainable before our CDP Contract expires in June 2019.

PROJECT PHOTOS

The completed sun shade at the Carnarvon Waste Facility



TRAILER SIGNAGE



CAR TRAILER





APPENDIX A – MEDIA

Don't Rubbish Country
ABC Foundation Ltd

FREE CAR REMOVAL SERVICE

CARNARVON RESIDENTS CALL OUR ON-COUNTRY TEAM ON 0427 302 159 TO GET UNWANTED VEHICLES REMOVED FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Car Artist: Robert Fielding

ABC Foundation
Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation

Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation

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The Government of Western Australia

Waste Authority
WA... TOO GOOD TO WASTE

Don't Rubbish 'Country' | Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation

CAR REMOVAL SERVICE



FREE CAR REMOVAL SERVICE for the residents of Carnarvon.

If you have a car on your property that needs to be removed get in contact with us today!

Funding provided by:



A partnership initiative between:



Government of Western Australia Housing Authority



Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Limited



FREE CAR REMOVAL

CARNARVON RESIDENTS

MONTHLY SERVICE

CALL OUR TEAM TODAY

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

CALL TODAY

Monday – Friday

9AM-3PM

048 109 1685

www.abcau.com.au

EXAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

ABC Foundation
Published by Liz Mackay [?] · October 5, 2018 · 🌐 · 🌐

Have an old car you want removed? Give us a call, we're here to help!
#DontRubbishCountry

Don't Rubbish 'Country' |

CAR REMOVAL SERVICE

FREE CAR REMOVAL SERVICE for the residents of Carnarvon.

If you have a car on your property that needs to be removed get in contact with us today!

Funding provided by:

A partnership initiative between:

FREE CAR REMOVAL

—

CARNARVON RESIDENTS

—

MONTHLY SERVICE

—

CALL OUR TEAM TODAY

—

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

CALL TODAY

Monday – Friday

9AM-3PM

048 109 1685

www.abcas.com.au

ABC Foundation
Published by Liz Mackay [?] · January 6 · 🌐 · 🌐

Don't forget to contact us if you have a vehicle that you would like to remove!
#DontRubbishCountry

Don't Rubbish Country

ABC Foundation Ltd 🌐

FREE CAR REMOVAL SERVICE

CARNARVON RESIDENTS CALL OUR ON-COUNTRY TEAM ON 0427 302 159 TO GET UNWANTED VEHICLES REMOVED FROM YOUR PROPERTY

Car Artist: Robert Peeling

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