



Conserving our Rural Environment Grant

MONITORING PROGRAM

What is the monitoring program?

Hume City Council introduced a monitoring program in 2016 to establish baseline data for environmental values on private rural properties that are funded through the Conserving our Rural Environment (CoRE) grant.

In the short term, the monitoring data provides supporting information for the development or review of Land Management Plans and on-ground management actions. In the long term, the program will assist Council and the landholder to monitor change over time on properties and assist in measuring the effectiveness of the grant program.

The monitoring includes mapping native and exotic vegetation cover, large old trees, organic litter, bare ground, emergent rocks and a range of other environmental attributes to assist with monitoring change over time and assist in prioritising land management activities.

Who conducts the monitoring?

Hume City Council engages with a suitable qualified ecological consultant to undertake the monitoring program.

Does the whole property get monitored?

It is recommended that the consultant monitors the areas containing environmental values. It does not include living areas or areas on the property that are used for agricultural activities. Council's Biodiversity Project Officer will liaise with you to determine the areas you would like to include in the program. At a minimum the project area that you receive funding for will need to be included in the monitoring program.

What do I get out of it?

At the completion of the program, landholders will receive a property report and an opportunity to attend an information session to assist in interpreting the report. This report will include:

- An interpretation of the values and threats present on the property.
- Maps that illustrate the values and threats.
- A species lists of native and exotic species present on the property.

What are the timelines?

Activity	Timeframe
Landholders will be contacted by Council to confirm participation program.	September 2020
Monitoring program to be undertaken by qualified consultant.	October – January 2020
Property reports to be prepared and provided to landholders.	February-March 2021