

4.3 TENDER FOR TREE ROOT MANAGEMENT (2022090: LP)

Responsible Director: Deb Cailes

RECOMMENDATION*

That Council:

- 1. Awards the tender from Rootcontrollers & Hydrox Australia for Tree Root Management, Contract No. 2022090 for a schedule of rates based contract with an estimated annual contract value of \$308,770 and an estimated total contract value of \$926,310 inclusive of all available extension options (assuming a 3% annual CPI indexation);*
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or her delegate to execute the contract agreement; and*
- 3. Notes that the contract will commence on Monday 2 May, 2022, with an initial term of One (1) year and the contract has Two (2) separate extension options of One (1) year each and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to approve extension options subject to satisfactory performance.*

*(*Please note that all dollar figures are GST Inclusive unless stated otherwise).*

INTRODUCTION

Council has conducted a tender for Tree Root Management. As part of its planning process for this tender, Council Officers considered their procurement options, including whether to go to market itself, participate in regional or sector collaboration or to access established contracts via other compliant Procurement agreements. Officers consulted with other councils to clarify how their similar contracts have been structured and managed. This information was used to inform the development of this service contract. Officers investigated a collaborative tender however other councils were content with their current arrangements and did not require procurement at this time.

BACKGROUND

Tree protection and preservation are central tenets in Monash's vision of 'an innovative and environmentally sustainable garden city: resilient, diverse and thriving' (Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2016-2026), as canopy provides intrinsic community and ecological value to Council. The ability to use a variety of techniques to

resolve the conflict between assets is crucial towards Council's ability to achieve the principles set out in its Tree Management Policy 2021.

In order to maintain the 'green and leafy' character throughout the municipality, Council needs to deploy a range of tree and civil infrastructure management services and works to ensure the conflict between infrastructure such as trees and paths is minimised and achieved in such a way that retains the value of all assets involved.

Examples of this work include; the pruning of roots to facilitate the creation of an accessible pathway, the excavation of soil around tree roots to access critical utilities such as water and gas and the installation of root barriers where conflict has been identified and inserting a physical barrier can extend the life of both the civil and tree assets within the area.

The three main tree root management services to be provided include;

- Root barrier installation
- Non-destructive excavation (for exploratory / investigative purposes or for sucker removal); and
- Root pruning

NOTIFICATION

A public notice was placed in The Age newspaper on 15 January 2022 and the tender closed on 28 January 2022.

TENDERS RECEIVED

One (1) tender submission was received by the appointed closing time.

The tender received is listed below:

TENDERERS SUBMITTED	
1	Rootcontrollers & Hydrox Australia

TENDER CONFORMANCE

The submission was assessed for its compliance with the tender conditions including the contractual terms and conditions and the requirements of the response schedules. The submission was deemed conforming.

TENDER EVALUATION

All members of the evaluation panel signed Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality forms and no conflicts were raised.

Pass/Fail Assessment Criteria	Score
OHS	Pass/Fail
Mandatory Insurances	Pass/Fail

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA		CRITERIA WEIGHTINGS	SUB WEIGHTINGS	SUB CRITERIA/RETURNABLE SCHEDULES LINK
50% NON-PRICE CRITERIA	Capacity and Capability	30%	15%	Experience
			5%	Resources
			5%	Risk Management
			3%	Legal Compliance
			2%	Performance and Innovation
	Sustainability (Mandatory)	20%	10%	Environmental Sustainability
			6%	Local Sustainability
4%			Social Sustainability	
PRICE (50%)	Price*	50%	50%	Estimated Annual Cost

*Minimum 50% price weighting required unless Council approves otherwise.

** If it is agreed that the Sustainability weighting is less than 20%, the minimum Price weighting must then be 60%.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation scores including the price and non-price evaluation criteria provided the panel with confidence that Rootcontrollers & Hydrox Australia would deliver the contract and offer value for Council.

To support the evaluation, an interview was conducted with Rootcontrollers & Hydrox Australia to verify their capacity to deliver the required scope of services with satisfactory results.

An independent financial assessment was also conducted on the preferred tenderer with satisfactory results.

The company has experience in undertaking larger contracts with other councils.

The tendered prices were benchmarked against previous contract prices and Council Officers confirm that the tendered prices are consistent with market prices expected for a contract of this size.

Rootcontrollers & Hydrox Australia is the only contractor that specifically has an arborist supervising the works that are undertaken.

Based on the submission and findings from interviews and references, the panel recommends Rootcontrollers & Hydrox Australia for this service contract as value for Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The primary annual operating budget line for this contract is listed below.

Service	Account	Cost Centre	Budget (2021/22)
Trees	Non Routine Maintenance Contractors Other	1.80.825.6620.803.7895	\$1,081,094

There are adequate provisions in the draft 22/23 budget to fund the services covered within this contract.

SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

As part of Council's commitment to sustainability the successful submission identified the following aspects of their service delivery;

- Use tree root barriers made from recycled high-density polyethylene plastic and
- Concrete waste is recycled for re-use in other projects.

CONCLUSION

That Council approves the recommendations contained within this report.