

7.4.6 CT 24 000045 Seasonal Roadside Slashing 2024-2027

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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender for RFT000045 – Seasonal Roadside Slashing 2024-2027, submitted by **Skyline Landscape Services (Vic) Pty Ltd** to provide services in **Areas 2N, 3 and 4S** for **\$235,102.60**, with two options for extension at up to three years each.
2. Accepts the tender for RFT000045- Seasonal Roadside Slashing 2024-2027, submitted by **Munns Parks and Gardens** to provide services in **Areas 1NW, 1E, 2S and 4N** for **\$182,130.03**, with two options for extension at up to three years each.
3. Approves a sum of **\$60,000** for the first year of services, to cover contingencies, including but not limited to, additional cuts, plant float fees, waste removal and traffic management.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - RFT000045 Seasonal Roadside Slashing - Confidential Tender Evaluation Report [7.4.6.1 - 1 page]

Executive Summary

The open space maintenance contract, which including roadside slashing ahead and during the fire danger period, expired in March 2024. This report details the tender process undertaken for the provision of this service.

A public tender in mid-June received two conforming submissions from Skyline Landscape Services and Munns Parks and Gardens. Both tenderers demonstrated sufficient experience and positive client relations. The tender evaluation panel recommended appointing both tenderers.

The total contract cost is approximately \$480,000 excluding GST, about \$40,000 less than the previous year's cost.

Background

In 2020, Council entered an open space maintenance contract with Citywide, which expired in March 2024. The contract model was redesigned, and a decision was made to award separate contracts to manage different portions of the service.

This report relates to the tender process undertaken to select preferred suppliers of the service to provide and operate machinery, to ensure adequate servicing to the roadsides ahead and during the fire danger period.

The contract involves roadside grass slashing along various roads within Cardinia. The Shire is divided into seven designated areas for this purpose (see Table 1 for details), with two areas (1NW and 1E) serviced mainly by internal resources, with high-traffic and high-risk roads requiring the implementation of traffic management contracted out. The specifications within the contract have not significantly varied from previous years.

Two submissions, that were conforming, were received from Skyline Landscape Services (Vic) Pty Ltd, and Munns Parks and Gardens

Table 1. Seasonal Roadside Slashing Areas in Cardinia

Seasonal Roadside Slashing Area	Main Townships Covered	Proposed Contracted Works
1NW	Avonsleigh Cockatoo	Five roads with a combined length of over 11km. -- Most of the area serviced by internal resources--
1E	Garfield North Nar Nar Goon North Tynong North	Eight roads with a combined length of over 40km. -- Most of the area serviced by internal resources--
2N	Beaconsfield Beaconsfield Upper Officer Pakenham	Almost 100 roads with an approximate combined length of 120km
2S	Cardinia Dalmore Koo Wee Rup Officer South	45 roads with around 90km of combined length
3	Cockatoo Nar Nar Goon North Pakenham Upper	44 roads with just over 80km of combined length
4N	Cora Lynn Koo Wee Rup Nar Nar Goon	114 with an approximate combined length of 280km
4S	Catani Lang Lang Monomeith Yannathan	75 roads with about 165km of combined length

Tender Process

A public tender was called mid-June. During the open period no questions were asked, and no addendums were created. The tender closed at the start of July, with two conforming submissions received.

A tender evaluation panel was established with all members declaring no conflicts of interest. All tenders were assessed and scored by each panel member independently using a set criteria, with two subsequent meetings held to discuss submissions and clarifications, and to determine final consensus scores for each tenderer.

The panel agreed on their scores, with both tenderers achieving high scores with a difference of three points in between them. Attachment 1 contains a confidential report outlining the details of the procurement process.

Recommended Tenderer

The tenderers provided sufficient evidence of their experience, appropriate equipment, trained staff, risk and safety management, and positive client relations.

Reference checks with other councils (Knox, Frankston, and Greater Dandenong), were satisfactory, with all referees recommending the companies for appointment.

Financial scorecards, OH&S checks, and insurance level reviews did not highlight any high risks in engaging either contractor.

Clarification was sought from both tenderers regarding the number of dedicated staff and equipment, and their capacity and willingness to service areas in the Shire. Both contractors that their current capacity didn't allow them to commit to servicing all of Cardinia's Seasonal Roadside Slashing areas.

Considering the contractors' capacities, the panel agreed to recommend the appointment of both tenderers as per Table 2.

Table 2. Recommended Tenderers per Area for Seasonal Roadside Slashing

Seasonal Roadside Slashing Area	Recommended Tenderer
1NW	Munns Parks and Gardens
1E	Munns Parks and Gardens
2N	Skyline Landscape Services (Vic) Pty Ltd
2S	Munns Parks and Gardens
3	Skyline Landscape Services (Vic) Pty Ltd
4N	Munns Parks and Gardens
4S	Skyline Landscape Services (Vic) Pty Ltd

Policy Implications

The tender process adhered to the principles of best practice for procurement, including value for money, sustainability, open and fair competition, accountability, risk management, probity and transparency.

Relevance to Council Plan

2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places

2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.

3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive

3.1.5 Facilitate community stewardship to build preparedness for natural threats.

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Financial and Resource Implications

The recommended tenderer's price is within budget and in the expected tender range.

The total cost for the delivery of this contract is in the realm of \$480,000 excluding GST, which is about \$40,000 less than the cost for the service last financial year through the previous contractor.

These savings and other allocated funds will be used to deliver additional grass mowing and open space and roadside maintenance works, including the upkeep of defined trails, fire breaks and fire trails.

Conclusion

Council redesigned its open space maintenance contract model, requiring separate tenders for different services. The tender process for roadside grass slashing resulted in two conforming submissions. Both tenderers demonstrated experience, safety management, and positive client relations. The recommended tenderer's price is within budget and has yielded cost savings for the service.