



PROTECTED AREAS
LEARNING & RESEARCH
COLLABORATION

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Review and feasibility of Protected Area Short Courses

The Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaboration (PALRC) is pleased to invite expressions of interest for a short term, scoping project to be completed over the next 8-12 weeks.

The project forms part of the PALRC's strategy to offer courses which are directly relevant to the needs of practitioners.

Although intended principally for take up in Australia, it is also hoped it will lead to take up in Asia and the Pacific; through both attendance at courses in Australia by students from those regions, and by the ability for the courses to be run in Asia and the Pacific for the benefit of practitioners there.

Expressions of interest must be submitted by midnight Sunday 15 April (AEST) to:

Doug Humann

info@palrc.com

headed: EOI

Applicants must:

1. address and meet the selection criteria below, namely
 - a. highly developed knowledge of protected area short courses currently offered in Australia, Asia and the Pacific
 - b. the demonstrated ability to identify and assess those courses against their:
 - i. governance and financial arrangements
 - ii. success/failure factors
 - iii. delivery methods
 - iv. ability to be integrated into existing PALRC partners capacities (ie the universities of Tasmania, Charles Darwin, Murdoch and Charles Sturt, and current delivery agents the BMWHI and Conservation Management)
2. identify the total cost of the consultancy (AUD without GST)
3. submit a CV including two referees confirming your suitability for the task including:
 - awareness and understanding of the higher education sector with respect to the protected area/natural & cultural resource management disciplines in particular



Background

In 2017 PALRC Development Manager Doug Humann undertook a series of interviews in Australia to identify course types and topics of most interest to senior protected area agency staff, and ranger groups.

Standalone short courses which meet immediate requirements were strongly preferred over university degree programs, but so too is their interest in courses providing credits for - and articulating into - certificates and higher degrees. And *in situ* courses were also preferred.

Priority topics of particular need include: Indigenous cultural competency; traditional fire knowledge and practice; ‘soft skills’ of management; visitor relations/tourism; GIS/spatial information analysis; and, finance and investment decisions.

In discussing these findings, the PALRC Academic Programs Committee (APC) focused on the potential for university and private sector course providers to develop new short courses to address the above areas of need, and/or adapt existing courses. Various short course models, experiences and constraints were discussed.

The Committee emphasised that collaboration between two or more PALRC partners in short course development and delivery was the preferred way forward. However, the Committee recognised that PALRC does not have a good understanding of the range of possible models and their relative advantages. Nor, a sufficient knowledge of what specific courses are most of interest that would draw participants and thus warrant development.

Aims

The aim of this feasibility study is to:

1. review the range of current models for short courses that meet protected area agency, Indigenous Protected Area and non-government organisation land managers’ needs; and,
2. assess the potential for PALRC partners to adapt and/or develop new short courses that meet these needs.

Key tasks

1. Develop a database of protected area short courses offered in Australia, western Pacific and south-east Asia.
2. Review the governance and financial arrangements for these courses and identify potential success factors.
3. Review the focal topics and delivery methods for these courses, including length of time and delivery mode [on-line, field intensive etc], and identify potential success factors.
4. Analyse fit of current models with PALRC partners’ capacities in terms of:



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- target markets
 - development and design responsibilities and approach
 - delivery responsibilities
 - delivery approach and duration [on-line, face-to-face intensive, field intensive]
 - business case and financial sustainability
 - articulation with university award programs.
5. Recommend a financially viable model for PALRC short course development and delivery.
 6. Canvas the interest and capacity of PALRC partners to be involved in developing / delivering course(s) for **priority topics** as outlined above, according to the recommended model.
 7. Contingent on positive findings for Points 5 and 6, recommend PALRC partner collaboration(s) to progress short course development.

Project governance and cost

The project will be overseen by the PALRC Development Manager, in consultation with the APC Chair.

Project budget around \$10,000 – 12,000.

Timing and output

The project will be undertaken between April - June 2018. The consultant will present a progress report to the PALRC Academic Programs Committee in early May 2018, and a final report at the completion of the project and in a subsequent briefing to the PALRC Steering Committee in 2018.