

10.10.Open Space Schedule of Rates contract - Tender 20/2025

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ATTACHMENTS	1. CONFIDENTIAL - Tender 20/2025 Open Space Schedule of Rates Assessment [10.10.1 - 3 pages]
CSP LINK	Outcome 3 – An active community with space for everyone to exercise and enjoy the outdoors O4. Manage our open space and recreational facilities to ensure that they are well maintained and shared

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an analysis of the outcome of the tender process for the Open Space Schedule of Rates Contract (20/2025), for the establishment of a panel of contractors to provide services for Council's open space.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The current Open Space Schedule of Rates Contract has expired, and Council is required to publicly request tenders for providers interested in providing services for Council.
- On 22 September 2025, Council sought tenders from appropriately qualified contractors for the Open Space Schedule of Rates Contract (20/2025).
- 15 submissions were received when the tender closed at 3pm 21 October 2025.
- Following assessment for conformity against the specified criteria, a shortlist of contractors has been established to provide services for Council's open space.
- If Council wishes to discuss the report, the meeting should be closed to the public to do so, in accordance with:

(d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and because consideration of the matter would, on balance be contrary to the public interest as publication of all tendered amounts would discourage potential tenderers from submitting commercial information in future and would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

(d)(ii) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council and because consideration of the matter in open Council would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest as it would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council accept the tenders from the shortlisted Tenderers for Tender 20/2025 noted within the confidential attachment to this report, to form a panel for horticultural, irrigation, tree, and turf services.

2. THAT Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to take the necessary action to enter into Contracts for Tender 20/2025 with the shortlisted Tenderers noted within the confidential attachment to this report, to form a panel for horticultural, irrigation, tree, and turf services.

3. THAT Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a variance in the annual adjustment of the rates within the Open Space Schedule of Rates Tender 20/2025 in the event of unforeseen circumstances that may arise requiring the adjustment of accepted rates.

4. THAT. Council authorise the Chief Executive Office to enter into extension options in accordance with the contract conditions noted within the in the tender documents for Tender 20/2025 Open Space Schedule of Rates Contract.

5. THAT Council resolves that the identified attachment to this report is to be treated as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the Local Government Act for the following reason under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act:

(d)(i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it and because consideration of the matter would, on balance be contrary to the public interest as publication of all tendered amounts would discourage potential tenderers from submitting commercial information in future and would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

(d)(ii) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council and because consideration of the matter in open Council would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest as it would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

It is further noted that the release of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as publication of all tendered documents would discourage potential tenderers from submitting commercial information in future and would affect Council's ability to obtain value for money services.

Background

The current contract for Open Space Schedule of Rates contract expired 17 August 2025; the contract has been tendered in accordance with Council's *Procurement Policy*.

This contract is necessary to support works that fall outside Councils internal capacity, capability, or available resourcing. It ensures specialised, large-scale, or time-sensitive tasks can be delivered efficiently and to the required standard without impacting core operations. For example:

- arboricultural that may involve large or complex tree removals, works around powerlines, or storm-damage response.
- difficult repairs or equipment replacements that must be performed by certified installers to meet Australian Standards.
- licensed irrigation technicians for fault finding or major line replacements, as Council does not have the required specialised tools.
- large-area returfing, topdressing, or laser grading which cannot be achieved in-house due to equipment limitations and time constraints.

The contract period is potentially a four-year contract of one year with the option to extend the contract for three years thereafter.

This schedule of rates contract includes the supply of all materials, plant, equipment, and labour for:

- arboricultural services;
- horticultural services;
- playground services;
- irrigation services; and
- turf services.

Report

The methodology adopted to undertake the tender evaluation of Tender 20/2025 was based on selection criteria outlined in the tender documents and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Open tenders were called on 22 September 2025 and were received until 3pm Tuesday 21 October 2025 via Tenderlink. At close of tenders, 15 tenders were received. Listed in strict alphabetical order, the tenderers were:

Tenderer
Agility Tree Services
Aura
Australian Turf Projects
Civilscape
GJs

Tenderer
Green By Nature
Jaddfe (watermatic)
Plateau Trees
Solutions plus
Total Water
Tree Link
Tree Serve
Waratah

A consistent standard for all tenderers has been used in assessing any request for confidentiality by a tenderer. The scores of the 15 tenderers are presented in the confidential attachment 10.9.1 to this report: Tender 20/2025 Open Space Schedule of Rates Assessment.

The following information is treated as confidential in the confidential attachment:

1. Tender evaluation including selection criteria

The tender process has been reviewed and endorsed by Council's Procurement Panel for adherence to the *Procurement Policy*.

2. Tender evaluation panel results

The final ranking and point scores (out of a total 100) of the tenders are identified in the table in the confidential attachment. The assessment was based on Council's standard tender evaluation methodology, as outlined in the selection criteria.

3. Funding and costing details

Application for access to documentation should be through lodgement of a GIPA Public Information application form and payment of prescribed fees.

Consultation requirements

No consultation was required to inform the recommendations of this report.

Financial/Resource Implications

Funding for the service is allocated within the current operational budget of the Public Presentation service area. The creation of panels enables Council to ensure best value for money through an open tender and fixing of prices (subject to CPI increase) for a fixed term.

Legislation

The proposal to create a panel to provide services for Council's open space is consistent with s55 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 and s179 of the NSW Local Government Regulation.