

# NSW Environmental Trust Administration response to Clear Horizon evaluation of the Healthy Seeds Project

## Clear Horizon Consulting recommendations

## NSW Environmental Trust response

### 1. Clear Horizon recommends:

Where it is anticipated that Trust-funded projects may identify issues that have implications for government policies and responsibilities, due consideration should be made to effectively communicate the Trust's position and ensure stakeholders are aware of the remit of the Trust in these contexts. This approach will help manage industry stakeholder expectations regarding what can be requested and achieved by government agencies.

In making this recommendation, it is noted that there are cases where grant outputs may highlight areas for policy or legislative reforms. However, any activities undertaken by stakeholders to campaign for such changes would be outside the scope

Agree with the recommendation.

The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.

of the Trust funding, which precludes grants being used to change policy or legislation.

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**2. Clear Horizon recommends:**

When designing projects that would benefit from the participation of practitioners<sup>1</sup>, consideration should be given to some level of remuneration for their involvement in consortium and reference group activities beyond funded activities. This would assist them to produce project outputs without a subsequent loss of income from their primary business activities.

Agree with the recommendation.

It is noted that grantees can include remuneration of practitioner participation as a budget item during the scoping phase.

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**3. Clear Horizon recommends:**

During project design and the development of the delivery schedule, that practitioners have the opportunity to participate in relevant project activities, including involvement in the consortium and contributing to project outputs. These should not conflict with their major business activities (such as seed collection periods).

Agree with the recommendation.

The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.

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**4. Clear Horizon recommends:**

Ensure practitioners are involved in the co-design, and subsequent testing/piloting of any resources that are intended to be used in the field. This will ensure the outputs are practical and relevant and increase the likelihood of adoption.

Agree with the recommendation.

The Trust has noted this recommendation for consideration in future projects.

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<sup>1</sup> This report defines practitioners as seed collectors, and other commercial or volunteer participants.

**5. Clear Horizon recommends:**

When designing projects, consider building in a six-monthly or midterm process evaluation to review a project's design and implementation to enable project teams to make modifications that could improve the appropriateness of the project's design and effectiveness of the project delivery.

Process evaluations form part of the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines (Evaluation TPG22-22). Evaluation TPG22-22 indicate that process evaluations can be designed 'to examine the contexts in which the initiative is operating, identify who the initiative is reaching and their experiences, identify issues with delivery, review appropriateness (to needs, community and conditions), assess efficiency, and provide information for process improvements. 'Further, the guidelines suggest that process evaluation can be undertaken early to check if an initiative is being implemented as intended, or to support outcome evaluation by helping distinguish implementation issues from design issues'.

Agree with this recommendation.

The use of midterm process evaluations is currently part of the Trust's standard processes. The need for a midterm process evaluation depends on the size and length of the grant and is determined during the project scoping stage with the Trust Administration or recommended by a Technical Review Committee.

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