

Rodney Local Board Healthy Harbours Waterway 2018/2019 Fund Guidelines

What is the healthy harbours and waterways fund?

The Rodney Local Board Healthy Harbours Waterway Funding is a targeted funding programme set up to support community led initiatives to improve water quality in the Rodney area.

Why should you apply?

- To join the growing movement to help protect and restore our waterways in the Rodney area.
- Supporting the Rodney Local Board's long term vision of improved water quality in Rodney's three harbours.
- This is an opportunity to get financial support and professional advice for improving the health of your waterways.

What areas will be targeted?

The fund will be targeting specific catchments within the Rodney Local Board area. The Makarau, Rangitopuni, Lower and Upper Kaipara River catchments have been identified as having high E.Coli concentrations and landowners within these areas will be given the opportunity to apply for this fund.

Who are our Partners?

The Rodney Local Board will also work with partners such as Fonterra, Beef and Lamb, Dairy NZ and groups such as the Forest Bridge Trust within the Rodney Local Board area, this partnership will enable these groups to work directly with local landowners and give them support.

Who can apply?

Funding is available to all landowners, including farmers and lifestyle block owners, community groups and environmental groups operating within the targeted catchments within the Rodney ward area and our Partners listed above and operating within the Rodney Local Board area.

Projects can take place on private and/or Maori land.

If you have an existing grant you are eligible to apply for further funding for the next stage of your project, provided any previous funding from Auckland Council has been spent and accounted for.

What can I apply for?

Funding is available to support the protection, enhancement or restoration of streams, waterways, wetlands, riparian and coastal margins.

Funding is primarily targeted towards projects involving the fencing of waterways (streams, wetlands, seeps and drains). It is also available for alternative water supplies for livestock, needed as a result of fencing, restoration planting and plant maintenance within fenced-off areas.

Are there any specific requirements?

Fencing should be permanent 7-8 wires properly strained unless an alternative is better suited to local conditions such as flooding risk or land management considerations. Preference is given to projects with wider strips.

All plants must be eco-sourced and appropriate to the planting area. Eco-sourced native plants are plants which have been grown from seeds collected from local, natural populations. The local origin of

these plants means that they are well adapted to the local climate and soils and have a greater chance of survival.

Growing and planting plants from your local area also means you are preserving and enhancing the local genetic character. Many Auckland nurseries are able to provide eco-sourced native plants upon request.

Successful applicants will have 18 months to receive funding, complete the proposed work and report on the successful completion of the project. Longer project timeframes to accommodate seasonal activities may be considered on a case-by-case basis. There must be an on-going commitment to maintenance and management by the property owner, via a funding Agreement.

How much of the project will the Rodney Local Board fund?

Applicants can apply for up to 50 per cent of the entire project cost (i.e. the applicant must supply or source the other half of the project budget). This contribution can be an in-kind contribution (e.g. voluntary labour), cash or contribution by other donors.

As a guide, volunteer labour such as planting can be calculated at \$19.25 per hour and voluntary professional assistance at \$30 per hour.

Applicants can also seek funding from alternative sources, with this funding forming part of or the entire applicant contribution towards project costs. The Rodney Local Board views its contribution towards individual projects as a stimulus or top-up rather than the sole funding source. Preference will be given to applications where a greater proportion of project costs are met through applicant/other organisations' contribution.

What will not be funded?

The following exclusions which apply to the Rodney Local Board Healthy Harbours Waterway Fund programme are:

- Activities or work that has already been completed including purchases already made (i.e. no retrospective funding).
- Activities or work that is required as a condition of a resource consent or mitigation requirements. This includes wetland or forest fragment planting and fencing required as part of subdivision consent/ entitlement applications.
- Projects that are part of a current or known future subdivision consent application.
- Projects that may lead to a conflict of interest for Auckland Council as a consent authority or are identified as not in accordance with the Auckland Council's rules, policies or recommended best practice.
- Projects whose sole purpose is beautification.

The following activities will not be funded through any Auckland Council grants programmes:

- Debt servicing or repayment.
- Legal expenses.
- Activities that promote religious ministry or political purposes.
- Medical expenses.
- Public services that are the responsibility of central government (e.g. core education, primary health care).
- Physical works – e.g. improvements to community buildings – that require consents or permits, prior to the necessary consents or permits being obtained (Funding may be awarded in principle, but funds will not be released until all conditions are satisfied).
- Purchase of alcohol.

Funding assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria outlined below.

- **Environmental benefits:** environmental benefits include improved water quality and aquatic ecological health, the type and significance of the environment to be protected, the length and width of the riparian margin protected from stock.
- **Community benefits:** the extent of community involvement in leading the project or participation in the project. Also, the potential for the applicant to connect with other landowners to form partnerships and share knowledge will be assessed.
- **Feasibility and likelihood of success:** projects should be practical and feasible. The project should be likely to be successfully completed based on the activities and time frames listed in the application.
- **Maori outcomes:** Projects or activities that empower Mana Whenua in their role as Kaitiaki for Auckland's natural environment

GST

Funding reimbursements from Auckland Council are made as GST exempt payments as this transaction does not involve the transfer of goods or services. Fund recipients will receive payment/s up to the value of the funding approved by fund decision makers. Funding recipients can submit funding reimbursement requests based on GST inclusive costs provided these are under the total value of the funding approved.

To help us understand your full project costs and set an appropriate value for funding allocation please include all project costs, not just those you are requesting funding from Council to support. Project costs should be provided inclusive of GST regardless of whether or not your organisation is GST registered.

Who will assess applications?

Applications will be assessed by Auckland Council Healthy Waters Specialists.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Rodney Local Board (Auckland Council) and comply with certain terms and conditions. Funding is paid as reimbursements once you have purchased the required goods and services, completed the work and a council representative has completed a site visit. Please note you have to provide copies of full receipts to Environmental Funding staff.

How to apply

Please contact Alan Phelps on 022 197 8230 or via email alan.phelps@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for assistance and support planning your project. Once you have spoken to Alan Phelps and received initial approval to proceed regarding your application.

You will be required to make a formal application on Smartygrants and this will need to be submitted via this link: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants-community-support-housing/grants/local-board-grants/rodney-local-board-grants/Pages/grant-details.aspx?itemID=47> by the **15th of March 2019**.

This fund is intended to be a multi-year targeted fund and applicants who are unsuccessful in the first funding allocation will be eligible to apply the following year.