



Waiheke Local Board Grants Programme 2025/2026



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Waiheke Local Board Grants Programme

Our Local Grants Programme aims to provide contestable and discretionary community grants to local communities.

Outcomes sought from the local grants programme

The Waiheke Local Board recognises the vital role that community groups and organisations play in developing diverse, strong, inclusive, connected and sustainable communities.

Our grants programme will be targeted towards supporting the priorities in our [Local Board Plan](#) – such as environmental, cultural, arts, community development, recreational and heritage initiatives, and supporting our youth.

We aim to assist groups to provide activities, projects, programmes, initiatives, and events that make a positive contribution within our local board area.

Our priorities for grants

Below is a selection of priorities from the Waiheke Local Board Plan. When you apply for a grant, you will choose one of these that your project must align with to be funded:

- Develop community capacity to be resilient and connected
- A healthy, diverse and supportive society, where people feel there is care, respect and all people are valued
- Strengthen collaboration, wellbeing and potential with Māori through partnership and giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- A flourishing arts sector that celebrates our unique island identity and is recognised as an arts destination
- Youth are valued and have opportunities to thrive
- Improve our community's wellbeing by providing quality arts, recreational and community events in open spaces and our community facilities
- Embrace, sustain and celebrate Waiheke's rich Māori identity, knowledge and cultural history
- Sustainable living is promoted in our community
- Marae are sustainable cultural centres
- Economic development on Waiheke is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable
- Promote Waiheke as a sanctuary in the gulf and a sustainable tourism destination
- Strengthen our economy in keeping with the island's character and our need to increase our resiliency
- Create community groups and hubs that allow for local employment and community events
- Restore, enhance, and protect our natural environment in partnership with our community
- Align work with the Climate Action Plan
- Improve conservation of our marine and coastal environment
- A water sensitive community through reducing the waste stream and providing education to manage water systems

Higher Priority

- Collaboration with other community organisations
- Projects are based in the board area and use local suppliers
- Projects that benefit the wider community beyond the applicant or organisation applying.
- Funding requests for new projects or towards capacity growth
- Projects that support marginalised or vulnerable communities

Lower Priorities

The below may still be funded, however the board will view them as a lower priority that will not be funded in over-subscribed rounds:

- commercial entities and promotion of commercial entities
- a cost for participation with the aim to generate profit
- sporting uniforms and travelling for sports.
- activities that primarily benefit communities outside the Waiheke Local Board area
- activities that primarily benefit a third party (e.g. activity to gain money for an organisation)
- grants to support that purchase of or maintenance associated land or water motor vehicles
- wages and/or operational costs
- individuals with projects on private land

In addition to the eligibility criteria outlined the [Community Grants Policy](#), the Waiheke Local Board will not fund:

- Alcohol, tobacco and nicotine
- Applications for Liquor licenses

Investment approach

The Waiheke Local Board will allocate budget annually to support the local grants programme which will be divided into three approaches:

- Quick Response Grants: for grants \$500 to \$3,000
- Local Grants: For grants \$2,500 to \$10,000
- Environmental Grant: For grants \$2,000 to \$10,000 and a requirement for applicant contribution (financial, in-kind or voluntary labour) towards project costs

Waiheke Environmental Grants:

The local board aims to support and grow community and landowner conservation efforts and environmental initiatives within the Waiheke Local Board area.

Grant outcomes:

Below is a selection of priorities from the Waiheke Local Board Plan. When you apply for a grant, you will choose one of these that your project must align with to be funded:

- Restore, enhance, and protect our natural environment in partnership with our community
- Align work with the Climate Action Plan
- Improve conservation of our marine and coastal environment
- A water sensitive community through reducing the waste stream and providing education to manage water systems

Who can apply?

Grants are available to all community groups, environmental groups and landowners operating within the Waiheke Local Board area.

Applications are accepted for work on private land or public land.

In addition to the higher priorities for grants, the environmental grant round will prioritise material costs associated with environmental projects (e.g. plants, fencing material, and equipment) and for projects which enhance sites with high biodiversity values.

Application Dates

Please note that the decision dates may change after the local board election in October 2025

Table 1 – Quick Response

	Opens	Closes	Decision Made	Project to Occur After
Round one	18 July 2025	15 August 2025	24 September 2025	1 October 2025
Round two	19 January 2026	13 February 2026	25 March 2026	1 April 2026

Table 2 – Local Grants and Environmental grants

	Opens	Closes	Decision Made	Project to Occur After
Round one	8 September 2025	17 October 2025	10 December 2025	20 December 2025
Round two	3 March 2026	11 April 2026	27 May 2026	1 June 2026

Accountability measures

Two months after your project is completed, you will need to submit an accountability report, it can be accessed on the Smarty Grants portal and requires the following information:

- provide information on how the project contributed to local board priorities and outcomes
- extend to the local board chairperson an invitation to the funded project, programme, activity or event where appropriate
- meet council standard financial accountability requirements

Additionally you must:

- Recognise of the Waiheke Local Board's support of your initiative.
- An invitation to the funded project, programme, activity or event should be extended to the members of the board, where appropriate.

