



Waterway Protection Fund

Te Pūtea Whakamaru Arawai

Guidelines



Introduction

The 2023-2024 Regional Waterway Protection Fund is an Auckland Council grants programme to support landowner and community initiatives that will help to improve water quality in the rural areas of **Franklin, Papakura, and Aotea Great Barrier Island**. These initiatives protect and enhance riparian margins to improve water quality and environmental outcomes.

Who can apply?

Funding is available to any landowner's or groups working on a private property larger than 5ha located within the areas of Auckland indicated above.

If you have received funding from Auckland Council previously, you are welcome to apply again, provided that the work that was previously funded has been completed.

What can I apply for?

Funding is available to support the protection, enhancement or restoration of riparian margins for a waterway, which includes streams, seeps, drains, springs and wetlands.

Applicants can apply for up to 50% of the project cost for fencing, site preparation, planting, releasing (planting maintenance) and water reticulation to protect a waterway. Funding towards water reticulation is available when livestock are currently drinking from the waterway. The applicant's contribution can be an in-kind contribution (such as volunteer labour), a cash contribution, and/or a contribution by other donors.

Waterway Protection Fund Minimum Standards

Riparian Margin

The new fence must be setback a minimum of 5 metres from the edge of the waterway. However, wider setbacks are encouraged to maximize water quality and biodiversity outcomes.

For wetlands and seeps the fence should go around the natural margins of the area.

Fencing Standards:

The minimum standard is a 5-wire post fence, with wires 1 and 3 electric for beef and cattle. A 7-8 wire post and batten fence is the minimum for sheep.

Other fencing types may be approved for waterway protection where they need to be tailored to conditions (i.e., a flood zone or steep topography). The fence type should be appropriate to exclude the stock on your property from the waterway.

Riparian Margin and Wetland Restoration Planting

All plants must be native, eco-sourced and appropriate to the planting area. A minimum of six plant species must be included in the planting scheme for all planting areas.

The land advisor assigned to work with each applicant will give advice on the which 'ecological district' plants should be eco-sourced to and the species selection for each planting site.

Eco-Sourced Plants are plants where seed has been collected from local, natural plant populations and grown within the 'ecological district'. The local origin of these plants means they are well adapted to the local climate and soils and have a greater chance of survival. They also protect and encourage better area specific biodiversity. Local native plant nurseries can usually supply eco-sourced natives on request, but our team can also help source the right plants

For stream restoration planting information refer to:

[Auckland Council Streamside Planting Guide](#)

For wetland restoration and planting information refer to:

[Wetland Restoration Guide](#)

Funding Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined below:

- **Environmental benefits:** The type of environmental benefits including improved water quality and aquatic ecological health, the type and significance of the environment to be protected, the length or size of the waterway/wetland and total area to be protected.
- **Community benefits:** The extent of community involvement with the project. This might include community planting days, working with not-for-profits like Trees for Survival, hosting open days, or actively working with neighbours.
- **Feasibility and likelihood of success:** Projects should be practical and feasible. The project should have a high likelihood of all proposed activities being completed and within the funding timeframe.
- **Partnership with Iwi:** The level of collaboration and partnership with local hapu/iwi to provide cultural and social benefits.

How much of the project will Council fund?

For the 2023-2024 financial year, (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024), a total of

\$330,000 has been allocated for distribution to landowners for waterway protection projects in the areas of Auckland noted above.

Applicants can apply for up to 50 per cent of their 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 such as voluntary labour, or contribution by other donors.

Applicants will have 24 months to complete the project.

Funding is given on a reimbursement basis, which means after the work is completed, and the relevant information has been collected. This includes a land advisor site visit to check the project work, and submitting applicable invoices and packing slips to the Grants team.

Typically, it takes 2 weeks for payments to be made, therefore we highly encourage successful applicants to get in contact with us as soon as work is complete.

Funding cannot be provided retrospectively (i.e., after the work has been completed), and if you are receiving grant funding **wait until you have signed the Funding Grant Agreement before starting any work.**

There is an expectation of the property owner for an on-going commitment to permanently exclude stock from the waterway and to maintain and manage the waterway protection funded work. This commitment is included in the Funding Agreement.

The purpose of the Waterway Protection Fund's is to increase the amount of waterway protection work completed in the Auckland region by providing financial aid to private landowners. To ensure the fund has maximum benefit within the region Auckland Council provides up to a 50% contribution towards a landowner's waterway protection project, rather than funding the entire project.

Applicants are encouraged to seek funding from alternative sources, (note - the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) project is currently the only funding source excluded from this, as both funds are supplied from the same funding pool).

What will not be funded?

The Waterway Protection Fund is not able to provide funding for:

- Retrospective work – any activities or work that has been completed prior to receiving a Funding Grant Agreement
- Projects on public land.
- Any form of earthworks including constructing stock passage and installing culverts.
- Fencing or planting which is a condition of current or future resource consent such as subdivision consents.
- The project may lead to a conflict of interest for Council as a consent authority.

GST

Grants reimbursements from Auckland Council are made as GST exclusive payments as this transaction does not involve the transfer of goods or services.

Grant recipients will receive payment/s up to the value of the grant approved by fund decision makers. Grant recipients can submit grant reimbursement requests based on GST inclusive costs provided these are under the total value of the grant approved.

To help us understand the costs of your project please include all expenses in your application budget. Project costs should include GST if you **are not** GST registered or exclude GST if you **are** GST registered.

Who will assess applications?

An initial assessment of applications will be undertaken by the Wai Ora Partnerships team within Auckland Council, which will include a review of the information gathered by the land advisor who visited the project site, and information provided in the application form. Decisions on the allocation of grants will be made by the same team. A cultural heritage review may also be undertaken as part of the funding allocation process.

Assistance

We are here to help!

If you have a waterway that needs protecting, and you would like to find out more or register your interest in applying for funding please contact Wendy D'Arcy on 027 264 3379 or via email at RegionalWPF@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. You can do this before the application period opens on 1 September, or anytime up to 20 September 2023.

A land advisor will be assigned to work with you on your application. They will meet you on-site and help you work out the details of your project. The land advisor can also assist you compiling the information you need for your application, and provide you with on-going support throughout the application process.

How to Apply

Once you have had a site visit from one of our land advisors, and have gathered the required information, applications are accepted online from the 1 September 2023 to 30 September 2023 via the Smartygrants portal accessed via <https://aucklandcouncil.smartygrants.com.au/>. If you have any questions in relation to completing the SmartyGrants application form online please contact: communityfunding@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or your land advisor.

Applications must be accompanied by sufficient supporting information:

- Project cost budget (You will have assistance with this from your land advisor)
- Quotes for fencing, plants, alternate water supply
- Bank Account details
- Map showing area to be fenced/planted protected (this will be provided by your land advisor)

Waterway Protection Fund

- Proposed maintenance of planting (if planting is a part of the project)

Applications should be made for total costs including the costs of materials and labour.

Please note, quotes of the proposed work are required for the application to be submitted.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be notified via an emailed letter and will be required to enter into a Funding Grant Agreement with Auckland Council, which will include terms and conditions.

No work can be undertaken prior to having a signed Funding Grant Agreement in place. Grants are paid as reimbursements once the required goods and services have been purchased and copies of full invoices have been provided to the land advisor auditing your project. **Please note copies of full receipts/invoices are required before any project costs can be reimbursed.**

If you have any questions or queries about the fund please get in contact with Wendy D'Arcy, the project lead, on 09 890 7140 or via email at RegionalWPF@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. If you have been assigned a land advisor they will be able to help with your queries.

