

Aotea/Great Barrier Waterways Protection Fund

Guidelines



This grant programme is an Aotea/Great Barrier initiative set up to support community-led initiatives that improve water quality on the island. These initiatives are expected to protect and enhance land, streams, wetlands and waterways, and reduce the potential for erosion and water contamination.

Why should you apply?

- To join the growing movement to help protect and restore our waterways
- To get financial support and professional advice for improving the health of your waterways
- To support the Local Board's long-term vision of improved water quality

What areas will be targeted?

Applications are welcome for projects that protect and restore waterways anywhere across the island, however, priority will be given to the Tryphena catchment due to having high concentrations of *E.Coli*.

Who can apply?

The fund is available to all landowners, mana whenua, iwi groups, community groups, and environmental groups.

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

What can I apply for?

Funding is available for fencing of waterways, restoration planting and plant maintenance within fenced-off areas. It is also available for alternative water supply for livestock, needed as a result of fencing.

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.

To be effective, a minimum riparian strip width of 3-5 metres is required. 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.

Successful applicants will have 18 months to complete the proposed work and send Council receipts for grant payment. 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 grant Agreement.

How much of the project will the Local Board fund?

Applicants can apply for up to 50 per cent of the total project cost. The applicant contribution can be financial, or in-kind (e.g. voluntary labour) or a contribution by other donors.

As a guide, volunteer labour such as planting can be calculated at \$20.50 per hour and voluntary professional assistance such as fencing 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. Auckland Council views its contribution towards individual projects as a stimulus or top-up rather than the sole funding source

What will not be funded?

The following exclusions apply to the grant programme:

- Activities or work that have 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. Grant agreements for successful applicants will include a clause noting fencing and/or native planting supported by Council grants cannot be used to secure subdivision consent for a period of ten years from the date of grant approval.
- 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.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **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 area of 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.
- **Māori outcomes:** Projects or activities that empower mana whenua in their role as Kaitiaki for Auckland's natural environment

GST

To help us understand your project, please include all project costs in your application.

If you or your group are GST registered, please do not include GST in the amounts. If you or your group are not GST registered, please do include GST (where applicable) in the amounts.

Grant recipients will receive payment/s up to the value of the grant approved by fund decision makers.

Who will assess applications?

Applications will be assessed by Auckland Council Healthy Waters Specialists. Recommendations for approval of funding will be reported to the Healthy Waters General Manager.

How to apply

Applications are accepted online via the [SmartyGrants](#). If you have any questions in regard to the application process, please contact the Auckland Council.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please e-mail us on hwcustomerandcommunity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or phone 09 3010101 and ask to speak to a Healthy Waters specialist in the Wai Ora Partnerships team.

Application cut-off date

The Aotea/Great Barrier Waterway Protection Fund will be open for applications on 11 February 2021 and will remain open until 25 March 2021. Decisions are expected to be made by end of May 2020.

Applications must be accompanied by sufficient supporting information:

- quotes
- maps showing existing fencing lines, location of proposed fencing and/or planting
- total budget, including your contribution (in kind or financial).

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

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Aotea/Great Barrier Local Board (Auckland Council) and comply with certain terms and conditions.

Grants will be paid:

- \$1000 upfront payment and
- The balance will be paid as reimbursements once you have purchased the required goods and services and you have sent copies of full receipts.

Please note copies of full receipts/invoices are required to be provided to Environmental Funding staff, an Auckland Council representative will complete a final site visit.

Find out more: Phone 09 301 0101
Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/grants

