

Report No.	21-23
Decision Required	

DON LINKLATER MEMORIAL BURSARY 2021

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This item is to seek Members' confirmation of recommended changes to the Don Linklater Bursary put forward by the Bursary Sub-Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 21-23;
- b. approves the increase of the Linklater Memorial Bursary to \$8,000 per annum;
- c. approves the increase of annual recipients from two to four;
- d. approves the change that past recipients must reapply and be considered along with all other applicants;
- e. approves the recommendation to include one of the four awards per annum which meets the study requirements and has an Iwi/Hapu connection to the region.

3. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 3.1. A bursary of \$8,000 has been budgeted for through the 2021-31 LTP.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1. Not required.

5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT

- 5.1. There is no significant business risk associated with this item.

6. CLIMATE IMPACT STATEMENT

- 6.1. As this report deals entirely with administrative matters, there is no climate change impact.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. To honour the contribution made to the Region and to local government by the late Don Linklater, Horizons Chairman 1989-2000, we offer a bursary for university study.
- 7.2. The process is overseen by the Linklater Bursary Subcommittee.
- 7.3. The Bursary has been worth \$3,000 per year, for up to two recipients, for up to three years, and aims to support students studying in areas relevant to our work.
- 7.4. To be eligible, applicants must be studying, or planning to study, at a New Zealand university fulltime in the academic year at either under-graduate or post-graduate level (internally, extramurally) in one of the existing fields:

- Resource Management
- Environmental Planning
- Environmental Engineering and Modelling with particular emphasis on river and drainage basin dynamics.

7.5. Applicants must be a New Zealand Citizen or Permanent Resident and live in Horizons' Region (although they may be studying elsewhere in New Zealand).

7.6. There are specific expectations on successful recipients, including:

- Presenting to Council on their study/research
- Instalments per semester are conditional on satisfactory academic progress
- Agreeing to their name and photo to be included in the media release

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. The Linklater Bursary Subcommittee during the 2020 academic year process, identified a change to provide more opportunity for all applicants in the process. This resulted in a fully contestable process for all applicants, including those past recipients.

8.2. The Subcommittee have met this year and have identified further opportunities for the bursary process which could make the bursary more attractive and raise the profile of Horizons. These include:

- Increasing the overall quantum of the bursary. An increase to \$8,000 has been budgeted for through the 2021-31 LTP.
- Allowing for more successful applicants. The recommended number of successful applicants proposed is up to four per academic year.
- Awarding one of the four applicants based on the study requirements and their Iwi/Hapu connection to the region.

8.3. Some changes to the Linklater Bursary Subcommittee Statement of Purpose will be required should council agree to recommendations made.

9. TIMELINE / NEXT STEPS

9.1. If council agree to the recommendations, the Bursary process will commence based on the changes made. This will include a contestable application process over the next month. The Sub-Committee will then undertake face-to-face interviews of shortlisted applicants to determine up to four successful recipients in this academic year.

10. SIGNIFICANCE

10.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Colin Morris

PEOPLE AND CAPABILITY MANAGER

ANNEXES

A Linklater Sub-Committee Statement of Purpose