



Combined Environmental Grants

Eligibility Criteria

LAND

There are three different environmental land initiatives, which focus on erosion control and preventing sediment and associated nutrients entering our regions waterways. Your project may be eligible for funding from one of these initiatives listed below.

1. Environmental Grant

These funding grants are focused on erosion control and preventing sediment entering waterways, they can include tree planting, fencing and retirement. In the coastal area we will support sand dune stabilisation. Funding is limited each year and the grant rate is usually 30% up to a maximum of \$10,000 per application.

2. Whanganui Catchment Strategy

Grants are focused on improving the water quality within the Whanganui River and its' tributaries. Grants will include tree planting, waterway and retirement fencing and planting. Grant for planting may be limited depending on the level of funding available. We are fortunate to have funding support from the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust and with their support grants can range from 30 – 70% of the total cost of works.

3. Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI)

The Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) will provide for grants to hill country properties where a Whole Farm Plan (WFP) has been prepared. The WFP is developed through the SLUI programme and is free for landowners of hill country properties. SLUI is funded by Horizons ratepayers and Central Government through the Hill Country Erosion Fund. Grants are generally between 30 -70% and are available for a variety of works which target erosion and prevent sediment getting into watercourses. These works will include; stream fencing, land retirement, poplar and willow planting, and afforestation with pines, manuka and other species. In all cases project funding is not retrospective, the site must be visited and the project approved by Horizons staff prior to any work being carried out.



FRESHWATER

If you are wanting to fence off a waterway to exclude stock, Horizons may be able to help fund this project. Horizons' freshwater team may also be able to assist with native planting within retired riparian margins.

Project sites must be visited by Horizons staff prior to any work taking place to ensure funding; retrospective funding cannot be given. Funding levels range from 30-50% of the total allocated cost depending on what catchment your property is within and the values of the catchment.

There are some basic criteria listed below that need to be met to be eligible for funding:

1. Fencing

- Fencing of waterways must meet the legal requirements of the NES (National Environmental Standard) – Freshwater – you can view the Freshwater Stock Exclusion Regulations [here](#)
- Waterways that do not meet the requirements for stock exclusion under the NES-Freshwater may be funded provided the fence is far enough back to achieve at least a one metre un-grazed riparian margin from the edge of the stream bed.
- Only new fencing will be funded unless: the existing fence has more wires added to make it fully stock proof for planting, a fence is moved back from the channel to allow for a greater buffer or riparian planting is to be undertaken, or where the fence is completely derelict and has not been funded previously.
- In most situations stock will need to be excluded from both sides to ensure they cannot walk across the waterway to access the retired area. Funding will only be provided when the other side of the stream is either fenced, or if there are natural barriers stopping the access of stock.
- No boundary fences will be funded, however in some circumstances where the waterway forms the boundary funding may be available where both sides are fenced by individual land owners.
- The fencing of ponds and dams in isolation will not be funded.

2. Planting

- All stock types must be excluded from the waterway when planting is being undertaken.
- A minimum of 3 metres set-back from the waterway is required if riparian planting is to be undertaken.
- Native plantings in the riparian area can be eligible for funding for up to 20 metres either side of the waterway for any land use type.
- Animal and plant pests need to be identified and controlled prior to planting. Ongoing maintenance is the responsibility of the land owner.
- Only plants endemic to the region and preferably eco-sourced from the same ecological district will be eligible for grant funding.
- The planting of ponds and dams in isolation will not be funded.



BIODIVERSITY

Horizons funds biodiversity initiatives through two programmes, the priority habitats programme which aims to maintain, restore and protect a range of ecosystems to a healthy functioning level and the Kanorau Koiora Taketake Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant which is an annual contestable fund that looks to empower communities to reconnect with and improve biodiversity.

1. The Priority Habitats Programme

This priority habitats programme has a goal “to restore and maintain the representative range of ecosystems to a healthy and functioning level”. Funding is targeted at certain threatened ecosystems not already well represented in the programme or on the conservation estate.

Only certain habitat types and sites are eligible for funding under this programme.

2. Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant

Horizons’ Kanorau Koiora Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grants provide funding and advice to community groups who are helping to make this region a healthy environment where people are thriving.

Grant applications are sought annually from community led projects that:

- Support connections between nature and people
- Are non profit making
- Work to restore and protect indigenous biodiversity including those that support the regeneration and continuation of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge)
- Provide opportunities for public to learn about their nature environment

Applications open around April each year with projects starting from July. You can find further information [here](#)