Environmental Grant Eligibility for River Works

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horizons
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Author
Julia Jung

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Dr. Jon Roygard

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CONTACT	24 hr freephone 0508 800 80		Help@horizons.govt.nz	www.horizons.govt.nz

SERVICE CENTRES	Kairanga Cnr Rongotea and Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Roads Palmerston North Marton 19 Hammond Street Taumarunui 34 Maata Street	REGIONAL HOUSES	Palmerston North 11-15 Victoria Avenue Whanganui 181 Guyton Street	DEPOTS Taihape 243 Wairanu Road Taihape Woodville 116 Vogel Street

POSTAL ADDRESS	Horizons Regional Council, Private Bag 11025, Manawatū Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442

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1 What is a River Works Environmental Grant?

Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) manages Environmental Grants as three separate funds, each with a different application form and processed by different teams.

- The Operations team in the River Management unit manages River Works Funds.
- The Land Management team manages Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) Grants and Whanganui Catchment Strategy (WCS) Grants.
- The Freshwater and Biodiversity teams manage the Community Fund.

In this document, Environmental Grant (EG) is specific to the River Works Fund.

An EG is available to help protect land through river control/management works. Projects supported by EG benefit both the local environment and the wider community.

Note: single landowner benefit is excluded from eligibility for EG i.e. works must be of benefit to more than one party.

Eligible projects may improve and address:

- Flooding
- Erosion
- Drainage
- Protect land through river control works

2 How Much Funding is Available?

Funding available for each financial year is $60,000. The maximum grant payable to any physically contiguous property is limited to $10,000 per year, per job. Grants exceeding $10,000 may be considered if the level of community benefit from the river works exceeds grant criteria. The Group Manager must approve any works exceeding $10,000.

Note that submitting a grant is not guaranteed, but depends upon availability of funds. When the application has been approved, funding is committed and work may start.

The EG is managed within a budget, set each year by the Council in the Annual Plan. The Council's financial year is from July to June. Once the budget is fully committed, no further approvals will be given for the current financial year. However, Horizons may hold applications, to be approved from the budget, for the following financial year.

3 Who is Eligible?

Grants are available to individuals, community groups, schools, iwi and land care groups to undertake works outside of River Schemes, or work types that are not within the mandate of the scheme.

To be eligible for an Environmental Grant the job must meet the following criteria:

- Either be new works, or existing work damaged by floods;
- Provide benefits for more than one property;
- Provide benefits through preventing or mitigating flooding or erosion, or both;
- Where appropriate, have agreement that the works will be maintained by the property owner;

- Not to be works normally undertaken by any Horizons' river scheme, or
- Works within the river scheme, but scheme does not support the works if that is outside of the scheme objectives; or
- Works within the river scheme, but the works are supported 100% by the landowner's cost. In this case, Horizons staff time are supported by the Environmental Grant.

The staff member will make a case to the Team Leader, Investigation and Design that meets all criteria listed in the eligibility criteria above and can demonstrate:

- Alignment of the works with Horizons' organisational priorities;
- Applicant's continued input and support and ownership of works should they be approved;
- Likelihood of mitigation success;
- Benefit to the community;
- The works, once completed, will be owned and maintained by the landowner; and

Priority of works will be awarded in the order to which Environmental Grant Applications are received.

4 Environmental Grant Contribution

The Grant is available to an applicant for river and erosion control projects.

Eligible projects are entitled to a Grant of up to 30% of the total cost of the project or maximum $10,000. The remaining 70% is borne by the applicant.

In the case, when the project is 100% supported by the applicant's contribution, the Grant supports the operations staff time for the works.

5 I Have a Project in Mind, What Should I Do Next?

If you have a project in mind or would like to apply for a Grant, we recommend that you talk about your proposed project with the local Horizons Area Engineer or Engineering Officer. They can provide advice and assistance free of charge about specific projects and techniques. They can also explain the Grant eligibility criteria and how it relates to your project, and may inspect the proposed site.

Please see Table 1 for the name and contact details of your local Area Engineer or Engineering Officer. Please email or call on 0508 800 800 to contact your local Area Engineer or Engineering Officer.

Table 1. Contact Details

Area	Name	Title	Email
River Management	John Foxall	Operations Manager	John.Foxall@horizons.govt.nz
Southern	Tom Wakeman	Team Leader	Tom.Wakeman@horizons.govt.nz
Southern	Simon McPhail	Senior Engineering Officer	Simon.McPhail@horizons.govt.nz
Southern	Julia Demianovich	Engineering Officer	Julia.Demianovich@horizons.govt.nz
Southern	Andrew McAuley	Cadet	Andrew.McAuley@horizons.govt.nz

Southern	Samuel Saunders-Foxall	Cadet	Samuel.Saunders-Foxall@horizons.govt.nz
Central	Paul Arcus	Team Leader	Paul.Arcus@horizons.govt.nz
Central	Cameron Reid	Engineering Officer	Cameron.Reid@horizons.govt.nz
Central	Tom Coogan	Engineering Officer	Tom.Coogan@horizons.govt.nz
Central	Hayden Milligan	Engineering Officer	Hayden.Milligan@horizons.govt.nz
Central	Sonna Thompson	Engineering Officer	Sonna.Thompson@horizons.govt.nz
Northern	Chris Steffert	Team Leader	Christopher.Steffert@horizons.govt.nz
Northern	Martin Lorenz	Engineering Officer	Martin.Lorenz@horizons.govt.nz
Northern	TBC	Engineering Officer	
Northern	Robert Ngatoa	Engineering Officer	Robert.Ngatoa@horizons.govt.nz
Eastern	Courtney Bond	Team Leader	Courtney.Bond@horizons.govt.nz
Eastern	Mike Napier	Engineering Officer	Mike.Napier@horizons.govt.nz
Eastern	Nelly Skelton	Engineering Officer	Nelly.Skelton@horizons.govt.nz

6 What Happens Next?

Once the application has been lodged, your application will be considered against the Grant criteria and available funds.

This assessment is typically carried out per individual applicant in a timely manner. All applications are carefully considered by Horizons in accordance with assessment criteria.

7 Environmental Grant Criteria

The Grants will be based on a cost sharing arrangement. The maximum grant rate will be 30% or $10,000. The level of grant funding, which could be less than 30% will reflect the level of community benefit from the project.

To be eligible to receive EG funding, river control works must:

a. Either be new works, or existing work damaged by floods;
b. Provide benefits more than one property;
c. Provide benefits through preventing or mitigating flooding or erosion, or both;
d. (Where appropriate) have agreement that the works will be maintained by the property owners; and
e. Not to be works normally undertaken by any relevant Horizons River Schemes, or.
f. Works within the river scheme, but scheme does not support the works if that is outside of the scheme objectives; or
g. Works within the river scheme, but the works are supported 100% by the landowner's cost. In this case, Horizons staff time are supported by the Environmental Grant.

The applicant is to note that routine maintenance of existing river protection works is not provided for.

8 Environmental Grant Application Sign-Off

If the application meets EG criteria, an Area Engineer or Engineering Officer will undertake further investigation for the proposed works, including suitable contractor, available materials, and consent requirement. Once established, the quote for works will be presented to the applicant.

If the applicant is happy to contribute 70% of the total cost of the proposed works, the applicant must sign the EG Application form, then the application will be sent to Horizons' Investigation & Design team for approval.

If approved, the Investigation & Design team lead or Catchment Operations Group Manager will give a final grant acceptance sign-off.

Once it is accepted, the applicant will be notified by letter.

Horizons will liaise with the applicant and contractor to organise an appropriate time for the works. Horizons staff will manage the project works including site start-ups and regular site inspections as required.

9 Grant Payment

After completion of works, Horizons will carry out an inspection to verify the job. If the works are carried out as per the contract, completion of the works will be notified by sending a Works Completion Letter to the applicant. The applicant will be sent an invoice for 70% of the project cost to be paid to Horizons.

Note that Horizons will pay 100% of the cost for the works to the contractor during the works, and then the applicant will pay the 70% of the cost to Horizons at the completion of the works. Payment details are included in the EG Application form for the applicant to sign-off.

If agreed in advance, progress payments may be made for completed parts of a project. GST is paid in addition to the grant where the applicant is GST registered and the project is part of the applicant's taxable activity (the GST number must be supplied).

10 Completion of the Works

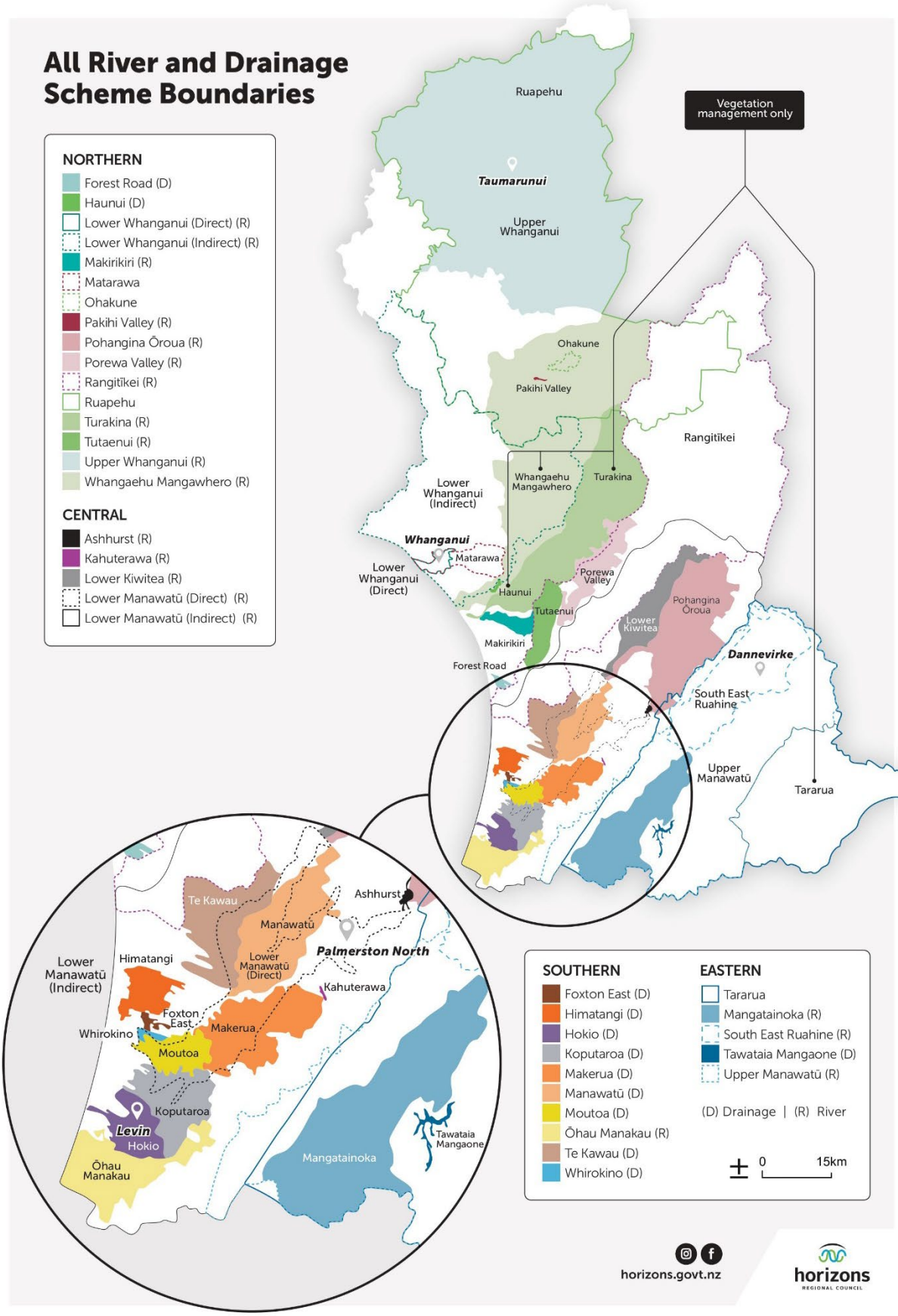
Once the contractor completes the proposed works, the applicant, Engineering Officer and the contractor will undertake a site completion walk over and formally hand over the site back to the applicant.

The final payment is to be made with the completion of the works.

The applicant will carry out regular site monitor and maintenance of works if required in the future.

11 Appendix

Scheme Boundaries Map



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Private Bag 11025, Manawatu Mail Centre, Palmerston North 4442