



Eligibility Criteria

AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Freshwater Community Grants

Horizons Regional Council Freshwater Community Grants are available to financially support those within the community who have projects with a freshwater focus.

Successful applicants will be able to access financial resource that will help them complete projects which will provide education, interaction or innovation in the freshwater space.

There is a total of \$200,000 of funding available, which will be allocated through a contestable process across successful projects.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Non-profit organisations such as community groups, schools, ECE, individuals/landowners and iwi/hapū groups can apply. The project must be not for profit.

Projects with particularly exciting and new or innovative ideas in freshwater will be considered favourably.

Applications will be assessed against but not limited to the criteria below.

LIST OF CRITERIA

The Freshwater Community Grants will include a variety of projects. The main criteria is that the project has a freshwater focus. In addition Horizons are looking for the below criteria:

- The project can demonstrate an improvement in education or enjoyment of freshwater in the wider community.
- For education projects, include examples of how the project would improve community knowledge, and how the learning could be used to improve freshwater outcomes.
- For projects which are based on enhancing the enjoyment of freshwater, demonstrate the benefits to the wider community.
- Horizons Regional Council would weigh favourably to projects which show innovation.
- The project must be based within the region, with preference given to groups who are also based within the region.

NOT SURE IF YOUR PROJECT FITS?

Projects which have been successful in past years range from fencing and planting around streams, to creating walkways which allow people to interact with a stream or river, predator trapping and rubbish cleanups along urban waterways and development of a plastic pollution cleanup event guide.

Horizons are always looking for new and innovative ideas in the freshwater space. Perhaps your community group has a project which looks different to previously funded projects, such as a viewing platform next to a river, or an interactive community freshwater education space.

Our goal for this community grant is to help provide financial support to projects based around freshwater, but if you're still not sure about your project's eligibility, get in touch with us.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- All successful applicants must sign a funding agreement with Horizons Regional Council.
- Permission from any landowner whose property the project is taking place on must be presented at time of application.
- The project must not present a conflict of interest for Council as a consenting authority or be designed for commercial or personal profit.
- Project must be completed by June 30 2027.
- Upon completion of the project a brief report, including images if applicable, must be provided to Horizons Regional Council. Project groups understand that provided images and reporting on funded projects may be used for Horizons promotional purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you need assistance completing your applications please contact your local Freshwater Advisor who will be happy to provide assistance and attend a site visit if required.

After we have received your application, we will assess it with all other applications. We will let you know if your application has been successful by the end of August.

Tips for a successful application

- Be clear and concise about what you want your project to achieve.
- Include a project plan, cost breakdown and realistic timeframe.
- Please include details of resource consents that would still be required if successful.

SENDING IN YOUR APPLICATION

To submit your form electronically please save and email it to freshwatergrant@horizons.govt.nz.

If you've printed this form off, please post your hardcopy application to:

Freshwater Community Grants Programme
c/o Horizons Regional Council
Private Bag 11025
Manawatū Mail Centre 4442

Applications close 4pm, Friday 24 July 2026.

For all enquiries please contact us by phone on **0508 800 800** or email **freshwatergrant@horizons.govt.nz**.

