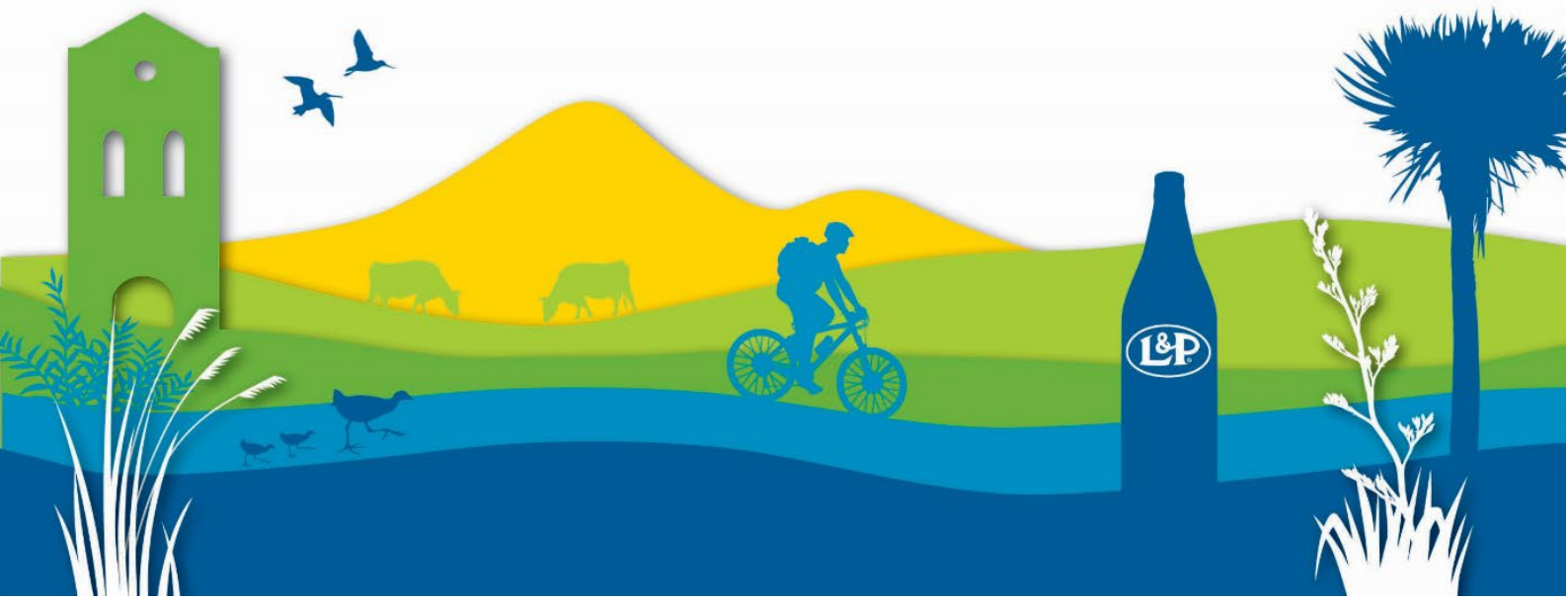




2023

Conservation and Heritage Fund Guidelines

our home, our future
tō tātou rohe kāinga, tō tatou ao tūroa



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. These Conservation and Heritage Fund Guidelines set out the criteria for the Council's Conservation and Heritage Fund (the Fund) and how the Council will administer the Fund.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991¹ the Council has a legal obligation to protect:
 - Areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.
 - Outstanding natural features and landscapes, and
 - Historic heritage.
- 1.3. As one method of achieving these requirements, the Council has included within its District Plan schedules of; Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Natural Features, Heritage Features, and Significant Trees, along with rules for their retention and protection.
- 1.4. The Council recognises the retention and protection of such areas and features provides a public good, whilst placing a cost on owners.

2. Purpose of the Conservation and Heritage Fund

- 2.1. The purpose of the Conservation and Heritage Fund is to provide financial incentives to owners of Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding Natural Features, Heritage Features, and Significant Trees, as included in the Council's Hauraki District Plan.
- 2.2. The purpose of the Fund is to encourage and assist owners of the above areas, features and trees to actively maintain and/or enhance these areas, features or trees and encourage their conservation.
- 2.3. The Fund supports the Council's Community Outcomes. During the development of our 2021-31 Long Term Plan our communities told us they want our ecosystems to be protected, restored and respected. They also want to reduce the carbon footprint of the district and have vibrant creative spaces that showcase our unique heritage and culture.²

3. The Conservation and Heritage Fund

- 3.1. The Conservation and Heritage Fund is a contestable fund of a minimum of \$17,000 per year, which is administered by Council.

¹ Section 6 Resource Management Act 1991.

² For further information see the Community Outcomes outlined in the Council's Long Term Plan and the Council's Manaaki Toiora Strategy.

- 3.2. If there are no, or limited applications or appropriate projects in a financial year, the fund may not necessarily be distributed. The funding will then be added to the following years fund so there will be additional funds to distribute.
- 3.3. For Significant Natural Areas (in the Hauraki section of the District Plan) and Significant Natural Features (in the Franklin section of the District Plan) funding can be requested for projects such as:
 - a. Perimeter fencing.
 - b. Animal pest control.
 - c. Invasive weed control.³
 - d. Planting and management of indigenous vegetation.
 - e. Removal of exotic trees and vegetation.
 - f. Other works that will assist with the retention and/or enhancement of the Significant Natural Area.
- 3.4. For Heritage Features funding can be requested for projects such as:
 - a. Preparation of Conservation Management Plans.
 - b. Implementation of Conservation Plans.
 - c. Ongoing maintenance, such as painting, repairs, restoration work.
 - d. Seismic assessments, related design plans, and work to the Heritage Feature needed to upgrade it in order to meet the earthquake-prone building standards.
 - e. Other physical works to the Heritage Feature which will assist its retention and/or enhancement.
- 3.5. For Outstanding Natural Features funding can be requested for projects such as clearing vegetation and invasive weed control.
- 3.6. For Significant Trees funding can be requested for projects such as trimming or pruning to enhance the health of the tree. This is usually required to be undertaken by a suitably qualified person.
- 3.7. In general the Council will fund up to a maximum of \$5,000 per project per funding round.
- 3.8. Funding cannot be applied for by public sector organisations.
- 3.9. Funding can be applied for by the following people:
 - a. Owners of Category A and B Heritage Features listed in the Schedule of Historic Heritage Inventory 6.1.6.2 and 6.1.6.3 respectively, of the Hauraki District Plan.

³ In accordance with the Hauraki District Plan, invasive weed control means 'plants that can significantly and adversely affect the long term survival of native species, and which are harmful to biodiversity and/or ecosystem functions'. For a list of invasive weeds refer to the Department of Conservation *Consolidated list of environmental weeds in New Zealand* at www.doc.govt.nz

- b. Owners of land within Category A and B Heritage Areas listed in the Schedule of Historic Heritage Inventory 6.1.6.5 and 6.1.6.6 respectively, of the Hauraki District Plan.
- c. Owners of land with Significant Natural Areas listed in the Schedule of Significant Natural Areas 6.2.6, of the Hauraki District Plan.
- d. Owners of Outstanding Natural Features listed in the Schedule of outstanding Natural Features 6.3.6, of the Hauraki District Plan.
- e. Owners of Significant Trees listed in the Schedule of Significant Trees 6.4.6, of the Hauraki District Plan.
- f. Owners of identified Significant Natural Features on map 109X-C in the Franklin section of the Hauraki District Plan.
- g. Community groups or organisations that have the support and permission of the landowners noted above.

3.10. The fund cannot be used for the following matters:

- a. Work for financial gain (e.g. income or revenue) of the landowner/occupier.
- b. Building consent fees or resource consent fees relating to the project.
Resource consent fees relevant to the projects in these guidelines will be waived by the Council.
- c. Costs for preparing and lodging the funding application.
- d. Debt servicing.
- e. Projects that require but have not been granted resource consent.

4. Assessment criteria for the Fund

The Council will use the following criteria to assess each application for funding and may undertake a site visit as part of its assessment process.

- 4.1 The degree to which the work improves, enhances, benefits, protects or reinstates the Significant Natural Area, the Heritage Feature, Outstanding Natural Feature or Significant Tree.
- 4.2 Evidence of the landowner's future commitment to the project, the long term benefit, including the future management and protection of the site (site management plan detailing present and future aspirations).
- 4.3 Collaboration and partnership – whether the applicants have explored and developed any opportunities for collaboration and partnership with others resulting in contributory funding from other parties.
- 4.4 Viability – the likelihood of the project's success and the applicant's capability to deliver the outcomes of the project. Desirable attributes include a project plan, a project budget providing visibility of all funding sources for the project and a method for monitoring the success of the project and reporting back to the Council.

5. The application and assessment process

- 5.1. The fund will be open for applications twice a year. The bi-annual funding rounds will be advertised through the Council's website and a district wide local newspaper.
- 5.2. In exceptional circumstances funding applications may be considered outside of these funding rounds.
- 5.3. An application form will be made available from Council's offices and on the Council website.
- 5.4. Council staff, with expert advice where necessary, will assess the applications and make recommendations to the Council's Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will make the final decision on the application.
- 5.5. If the Fund is oversubscribed, staff will prioritise applications that best meet the criteria listed above in 4.1 – 4.4.
- 5.6. All funding must be used for the purpose for which the application was granted, within 12 months of receipt of the funds.
- 5.7. Upon completion of the funded project, recipients must return any unused portion of funding to the Council and complete and return all required Hauraki District Council funding expenditure and accountability documentation.

6. Related funding from other sources

- 6.1. At the time of writing this policy the Waikato Regional Council has three funds that support community environmental projects; the Natural Heritage Fund, Environmental Initiatives Fund, and Small Scale Community Initiatives Fund.
- 6.2. You can contact the Council's Community Advocacy Officer for further information on funding from other sources.

7. Related Council policies/strategies or guidelines

- 7.1. Hauraki District Plan.
- 7.2. Conservation and Heritage Fund application form.

8. Review

- 8.1. The guidelines will be reviewed within five years after the first guidelines are adopted by the Council and then at intervals determined by the Council.

9. Document management and control

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For more information:

- **W** www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz
- **E** info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz
- **P** 07 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within District)

Visit us at one of our offices:

- Paeroa: 1 William Street
- Ngatea: 84 Orchard West Road
- Waihi: 40 Rosemont Road