





April 2020

Waikato River Authority's Response to COVID-19

Teena koutou,

At the time of approving its 2020 Funding Strategy, the Waikato River Authority recognises the Covid-19 crisis is creating massive health and financial challenges across the world, the country and our Waikato River catchment.

At this time, the full effects of Covid-19 are still to be understood.

The Waikato River Authority is committed to playing its role to support people and communities as part of its mahi to restore and protect the Waikato River and Waipā River.

We will continue, wherever that is possible, to carry on with the funding of projects so that people can be employed and their well-being, along with that of our waterways, can be looked after. In addition to the priorities outlined in this document, projects in this next funding round that help people will be given additional importance.

As always, we expect projects to be undertaken with full consideration of health and safety.

Ngaa manaakitanga,

Hon John Luxton
Co-chair

Roger Pikia
Co-chair

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From the Co-chairs

Teena koutou, teena koutou, teena koutou katoa

This funding round marks an important milestone for the Waikato River Authority (WRA) being our tenth, as we complete our first decade since establishment. We remain determined to support realising the Vision & Strategy for the Waikato and Waipā Rivers (Te Ture Whaimana o te awa o Waikato).

While much has been achieved with the 321 projects funded so far, the task ahead to see the Waikato River and Waipā River restored and protected remains significant.

Late last year the Waikato River Authority hosted a climate change workshop with a particular emphasis on the issues relating to this region. With this in mind, the 2020 Funding Strategy has a renewed focus on wetlands as a priority. Wetland loss has been extreme in the catchment over the past decades and the protection and enhancement of what we have left is crucial, even more so when this loss is viewed in the context of climate change and the ecosystem services that healthy wetlands perform.

There is no doubt that wetlands can help provide us with climate change mitigation and resilience. Research shows there is immense value from wetlands in the sequestering of carbon for example and the management of unpredictable water flows in volatile rainfall events. We also know that wetlands contribute significantly to enhancing our biodiversity, helping restore and protect both flora and fauna.

A number of wetland projects have been identified in the Restoration Strategy for the Waikato River and Waipā River and we once again emphasise the importance of this document when considering restoration projects. The Restoration Strategy can be viewed at www.restorationstrategy.nz.

We also recognise the co-benefits tree planting has on carbon sequestration. A large percentage of our funded projects involve tree planting and we expect this to continue into the 2020 funding round.

This year we increased the time available to make funding applications. The funding round will now open in early June and still close mid-August. We recognise the input of our five River Iwi (Waikato-Tainui, Maniapoto, Raukawa, Te Arawa River Iwi Trust and Tuwharetoa) is essential. The additional time will provide an increased opportunity for funding applicants to discuss their proposals with River Iwi before they are submitted to the Waikato River Authority.

In the previous nine years of funding the Waikato River Authority has allocated nearly \$50 million. It has been encouraging to see a strong level of co-funding in the projects that have been completed. These funding partnerships are essential to achieving Te Ture Whaimana o te awa o Waikato. The Authority looks forward to once again receiving and approving a range of high-quality collaborative projects that will help achieve the vision for a restored and protected Waikato River.

Ngaa mihi,



[Signature]

Hon John Luxton
Co-chair



[Signature]

Roger Pikia
Co-chair



Right: Workers from Pūniu RiverCare have carried out a number of projects funded by the Waikato River Authority



Above: Volunteer workers on Rosemary and Graeme Davison's property at Otewa near Otorohanga where a kahikatea fragment was fenced and planted (Photograph: Nardene Berry)

Right: Gray Baldwin in his restored wetland on the family farm near Putaruru. A project funded by the WRA, and carried out by DairyNZ with environmental monitoring from NIWA



Above: The Kukutāruhe Gully in the Hamilton suburb of Fairfield is the site of a significant community project involving restoration and education. The project has involved a major clean-up of the gully

Right: A Waikato River Authority freshwater Kaitiaki project with support from Raukawa involved a large number of people in practical training in water monitoring



1/ Background and context

1.1 The Authority and its role

The overarching purpose of the legislation that created the Waikato River Authority ('the Authority') and the Waikato River Clean-up Trust (the 'Trust') is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment for future generations.

The purpose of the Authority is to:

- Set the primary direction through the Vision & Strategy to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations
- Promote an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision & Strategy and the management of the Waikato River
- Fund rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

The Authority is the sole trustee of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust. The Trust administers and distributes a contestable fund to work towards the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for present and future generations (this forms the Trust's objective). In doing so it must pay adequate regard to the Vision & Strategy and the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study (WRISS). As the sole trustee the Authority determines which projects receive funding in accordance with criteria set annually.

The area that this Strategy applies to is the Waikato River and its catchment from Huka Falls to Te Puuaha o Waikato and the upper catchment of the Waipa River through to its junction with the Waikato River (as shown in the map on page 4). The "River" is defined in the Settlement Legislation as including the main stem, the tributaries, and all associated lakes and wetlands within the catchment.

1.2 The purpose of this document

The Trust reviews funding priorities annually to ensure funding continues to be aligned with the objectives of the Trust and the Authority. To help achieve this the Authority has formed, with other members of the community, the Waikato River Restoration Forum to support a comprehensive and connected approach to clean-up projects.

This document forms the Funding Strategy for 2020 for the Trust. It presents the criteria that the Authority believes will best position the Trust to award funds in a fair and consistent manner to projects that will not only meet the requirements set out in its legislation but will also lead to the most effective response for the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment.

Priorities are presented both in terms of the geographical areas the Authority believes should draw particular focus from applicants, and also the nature of the projects the Authority believes are a high priority in and across those geographical areas.

1.3 The Waikato River Clean-up Fund

The Trust is responsible for administering a Clean-up Fund of \$220 million over 30 years. This year the Trust has decided that up to \$6 million will be available in the funding round.

Annual funding decisions are based on:

- Applicants meeting the funding criteria
- Applications being for projects identified as priority areas by the Trust
- The quality of the applications received.

The Clean-up Fund is contestable. The Trust may or may not award all or any of the identified funds in a funding round as this will depend on the quality of applications received and the quantity of funding sought by applicants. The Trust may also award a lesser amount than that applied for.

The timing for this round of funding is:

- Funding round opens for applications Monday 8 June 2020
- Funding applications close 4pm Thursday 13 August 2020
- Decisions announced to successful applicants in October 2020
- Deeds of Funding completed by 30 January 2021 (the Trust reserves the right to withdraw funding from applicants not able to complete the Deed of Funding as required). Applications should be for works that are intended to start on or after 1 February 2021.

The Trust is open to funding a range of projects at different scales and over varying timeframes. This could include one-off short term projects as well as projects taking up to five years, all to be funded from the current funding round.

All applications for funding must be completed using the application portal available on the Authority's website www.waikatoriver.org.nz. This will be available as of Monday 8 June 2020.

1.4 Background documents to support applications

Applicants may find the following documents useful background in preparing applications:

- The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 and the Waikato-Tainui Environmental Plan
- The Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010
- The Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipa River) Act 2012 and Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao – The Maniapoto iwi Environmental Management Plan 2016
- The Vision & Strategy for the Waikato River
- The Waikato River Independent Scoping Study
- The Waikato and Waipa River Restoration Strategy.

These documents are available online at www.waikatoriver.org.nz along with a list of previously funded projects. Applicants should also consider the priorities identified within the various River Iwi (Tuwharetoa, Te Arawa, Raukawa, Waikato-Tainui, and Maniapoto) environmental management plans, fisheries plans and associated environmental prioritisation documents (e.g. Maniapoto Priorities for the Restoration of the Waipa River Catchment), as well as other catchment focused restoration strategies when developing their application.

2/ Criteria for applicants and applications

2.1 Criteria for applicants and applications

The five key guiding concepts for the Trust are: Protect – Restore – Enhance – Health – Wellbeing. In relation to the Waikato River and its catchment these concepts define much of the criteria for what sort of projects should be funded. The Trust has developed a range of criteria that guide applicants in considering whether (and how) to prepare an application for funding. Some of these criteria are mandatory (i.e. all applicants must meet them), and others are intended to guide applicants in terms of the Trust's priorities.

2.2 Threshold criteria

The Trust expects that all applications should meet the following broad 'threshold tests' before being considered eligible for funding:

- Any organisation or group applying for funds of more than \$25,000 must be GST registered (this includes organisations who make multiple successful applications in a single funding round that total over \$25,000)
- Projects must be focused on one or more of the four key guiding concepts of protecting, restoring, health and wellbeing in relation to the Waikato River and its catchment
- Projects must be technically achievable, and applications must clearly demonstrate this
- Preference will be given to projects that are able to demonstrate to a high level, certainty of success
- Applicants must describe how the project will achieve benefits in regard to the four wellbeings of cultural, social, environmental and economic
- Applicants must know the outcomes the projects will deliver and be clear what constitutes 'success'. Project applications must demonstrate how monitoring against objectives will occur (e.g. site visits and peer review both during the project and after it is completed)
- The project should provide an outcome that will be maintained into the future without the need for ongoing funding from the Trust.

2.3 Objectives outlined in legislation

In addition to the Threshold Criteria above, all applications for projects are required to meet the objectives of the Trust outlined in the legislation and summarised below. These include:

- The Trust should not fund a project or a part of a project that another agency should or would fund (or be likely to fund) in the normal course of its operations if the Trust did not exist, e.g. fencing of waterways on dairy farms, or activities that a territorial authority should undertake as part of their role would not be funded
- The Trust seeks efficiency in the allocation and use of funding, including having particular regard to the desirability of applicants using matching or supplemental funding from other sources, ie. higher co-funding (either in-kind or cash) is beneficial
- Preference will be given to projects that achieve practical results over projects that are purely for research purposes
- The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to the Vision & Strategy in applications, including clear demonstration of how proposed projects will give effect to the Vision & Strategy
- The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to the report of the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study
- The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to any other relevant research (either within or outside the Waikato Catchment)
- The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to the extent to which projects would further iwi environmental plans, in the case of applications from iwi or applications based on Maatauranga Maaori or on the mauri of the Waikato River.

2.4 General requirements for all applicants

In addition to each application meeting the criteria outlined in sections 2.1 to 2.3, all applicants must meet the following general criteria:

- **GST**
 - All funding applications must refer to GST inclusive figures at all times. Because the Waikato River Clean-up Trust receives its funding from the Crown in GST inclusive amounts, all funding business will be conducted in this way
 - For projects over \$25,000 (or multiple successful applications from a single entity amounting to more than \$25,000 in a single funding round) must be GST registered.
 - Applicants must not be currently registered as bankrupt or insolvent
- **Health and Safety**

All applicants must confirm that they understand their health and safety obligations in relation to the work for which funding is sought, and have considered these in connection with the methods, materials, personnel and timeframes proposed. They must also confirm that they have procedures in place to meet these obligations.
- **Trust Indemnified**

If the Trust suffers any loss or damage as a result of any act or omission of a funding Recipient, its employees, agents or contractors, the Recipient shall fully indemnify the Trust.
- **Deed of Funding**

All successful applicants will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Trust's Deed of Funding, which represents the funding contract between the Authority and the Recipient. The Deed of Funding must include a detailed project plan. This plan, at a minimum, will contain:

 - Deliverables (the identifiable outcome(s) that will be delivered by the project as a whole)
 - Key tasks (the key activities that will be undertaken to deliver the project successfully and for which reporting and invoicing will occur)
 - A project budget including requested contributions from WRA, cash co-funders and in-kind contributors.
- **Financial and Reporting Systems**

The Authority requires all funding recipients maintain sufficient financial and reporting processes to provide evidence that any funds awarded are used in the most appropriate manner to achieve the objectives of the project.
- **Co-funding**

All successful applications will have an element of co-funding (cash/in-kind) included as part of their project. The greater the level of co-funding, the greater the weight the Trust will give to the application.

It is recognised that the Clean-up Trust Funds were derived from a Crown-Iwi Treaty settlement process. Accordingly, the same cash co-funding requirements are not applied to River Iwi led projects. However, achieving the Vision & Strategy ultimately requires everyone to work together so there is still an expectation that iwi would work with non-iwi parties where appropriate and that best efforts would be made to attract cash co-funding from other sources and that in-kind funding would be included in these projects.

Co-funding can only include new funding, and not funding or expenses incurred prior to the applied for project commencing. Quantified in-kind activity will be considered as co-funding. For a list of funders of environmental projects visit: www.waikatoriver.org.nz/funding-applications/
- **Further clarification of iwi co-funding requirement**

Projects that involve iwi working in partnership with non-iwi parties are still expected to have cash co-funding. Some examples are provided below to provide further clarification.

Example projects where all applicants would be expected to have cash co-funding support include:

- Environmental restoration works on private land including riparian fencing and planting, revegetation of hill country, wetland enhancement
- Environmental restoration works on Iwi Farm Trust land that operates as a farming business including riparian fencing and planting, revegetation of hill country, wetland enhancement
- Projects whereby iwi apply for funding but most of the work is undertaken by a non-iwi partner organisation e.g. Regional Council, Government Department, CRI.

Example projects where cash co-funding wouldn't necessarily be required include:

- Projects that are led by marae, hapū or River Iwi Authority for iwi benefit but contract non-iwi parties to assist with delivering parts of the project (e.g. An iwi led project with the core objective being capability and capacity building of iwi to undertake projects that deliver on the Vision & Strategy, where training components may be contracted out to a non-iwi provider)
- Marae, hapū or River Iwi Authority led projects to restore wāhi tapu sites (regardless of land tenure)
- Hapū or River Iwi Authority led projects that capture and/or share Māori cultural history in relation to the Awa
- Projects led by hapū and marae that do not have cash co-funding are required to have written support from the relevant River Iwi Authority (i.e. Tuwharetoa, TARIT, Raukawa, Waikato Tainui, Maniapoto).

If you are unsure of whether your application is likely to require cash co-funding it is recommended that you contact the Waikato River Authority Funding Manager to discuss.

2.5 Other matters for consideration

Iwi Environmental Plans

Applications should consider and document the extent to which the project will further the achievement of the relevant iwi environmental plans. Discussion of such project with the relevant iwi environmental team is required.

Related projects

The Trust considers it advantageous if newly funded projects are related to adjacent or nearby restoration and/or protection projects, and/or build on existing initiatives. Previously funded projects may be found at www.waikatoriver.org.nz/funded-projects/

The Trust recognises set-up costs may be required as part of applications for funding and these costs may include research, tools, training, and extension programmes. They must not include any capital purchases (i.e. items that can be used beyond the life of the project as part of a business e.g. laptops, iPads, vehicles, boats and machinery).

The Trust requires applicants to consult with the appropriate Waikato River Iwi who hold mana whenua relevant to the project area.

Funding for actual costs only

It is important to note that the Trust provides funds to cover the costs incurred in completing an agreed project, up to the maximum value approved. Projects will be reimbursed for actual costs incurred only. Unspent funds will be used by the Authority for future restoration activities.

Fencing standards

All projects receiving funding which include a component of planting are required to have permanent stock proof fencing erected to protect the planting. The following fencing standards have been developed to provide guidance as to the minimum standard required.

Stock type	Electric Fence	Standard Fence	Fencing in a floodplain (with regular flooding)
Sheep (and cattle)	5 wire, permanent posts (preferably at least 2 electric wires)	7 wire, post and batten	As agreed with WRA
Cattle only	5 wire, permanent posts (preferably at least 2 electric wires)	5 wire, permanent posts	3 wire electric

Protection of sites

Where funding of greater than \$100,000 is provided by the Trust, it is likely that a condition of funding will be that a protection mechanism (e.g. covenant or encumbrance) be put in place to protect the work undertaken. This will be treated on a case by case basis, however applicants should state whether works will be legally protected as part of the application.

Native plant establishment

For projects that involve native planting, ensure that your project duration and funding covers the full establishment of native plantings. This will normally involve two or three years of weeding and releasing following planting.

2.6. What the Trust does not fund

The Trust will not fund:

- Works that are required arising from the statutory planning framework within the Waikato region, or by industry regulation
- A project to address discharges or contamination that are the responsibility of the entity that created them. The 'polluter pays' principle will generally apply, however in exceptional circumstances the Trust may consider funding projects with a high degree of public good on a co-funding basis with polluters
- Capital purchases or items that can be used beyond the life of the project as part of a business e.g. laptops, iPads, vehicles, boats and machinery
- Nursery set up and running costs (although the Trust will fund the purchase of plants)
- Works that are clearly required as part of the proposed Waikato Regional Council Healthy Rivers Plan Change. In particular, fencing projects that entail only the minimum requirements of the Plan will not be eligible to receive a funding contribution for that part of the project. Applications will however be considered where works proposed go beyond the Plan requirements e.g. larger fencing setbacks with a higher grade of fence. Co-funding would be expected towards fence costs
- Projects that are being undertaken for the purpose of gaining a subdivision lot or subdivision right through a District Plan
- Pond creation for game bird habitat
- The following project management/admin costs:
 - Time spent undertaking GST returns and general accounting
 - Annual returns to the companies office
 - Accountants costs
 - Costs associated with operating a Trust or Incorporated Society
 - Insurance costs
 - Costs associated with covenanting land (e.g survey and legal costs). However this can count towards project co-funding.

3/ Priorities for funding

3.1 Background

The Trust consulted widely and through its networks has drawn on a wide range of sources to develop its priority areas.

In setting the following priorities the Trust has also given adequate regard to the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study (WRISS). The key purpose of the WRISS was to provide the Crown and Waikato River Iwi with a sound and objective basis on which to make decisions about the priority actions required to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations.

3.2 Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy

In April 2018 the Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy was launched by the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker. This is a five to 15 year action plan for the Waikato and Waipā rivers and their catchments with the purpose of guiding funding and restoration activities throughout the catchment. Projects have been prioritised so that they are likely to make the greatest difference in improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipā rivers, and reflect the values and goals of the iwi and communities within the catchment.

The Strategy can be viewed at www.restorationstrategy.nz

The Trust would therefore like to give the highest priority to all those projects identified in the Strategy.

NOTE:

Not all components of Restoration Strategy projects meet WRA funding criteria. Applicants should check the criteria outlined in section 2 and 4 of this document or contact the WRA Funding Manager to check before submitting an application.

Applications must also provide a more detailed plan and costings than that provided in the Restoration Strategy.

3.3 Wetland priorities

In addition to the Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy, an overarching priority is the restoration and protection of wetlands for their water quality and carbon sequestration benefits. The definition of wetlands is broad and ranges from farm swamps, gully wet areas and springs through to large wet areas containing native plant dominated ecosystems (e.g. Kahikatea swamp forests, manuka wetlands and peat bogs).

Wetland projects identified within the Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy will be given first priority.

3.4 Other priorities

In addition to the specific projects identified in the Waikato and Waipā River Restoration Strategy, the priorities listed below more broadly describe the priorities of the Trust. The first three of these are geographically based.

1. Karapiro Dam to Te Puuaha o Waikato (the mouth of the Waikato River) referred to in the map on page 7 as Area A

- Projects that address or demonstrate tangible outcomes in improving lake, river and stream water quality
- Projects that improve habitat quality and connectivity for taonga species including tuna
- Projects that improve the passage of native fish species including improved downstream passage of migratory species. Projects that improve the downstream passage of large migratory species must be undertaken in partnership with iwi.
- Investigating native species establishment as dominant predators in the Waikato and its lakes including through the impacts of koi carp removal
- Projects that contribute to understanding management options and for koi carp.

2. The Waipā River catchment referred to in map Area C and part of map Area 1 (page 4)

Those applications that are based on the mauri of the Upper Waipā River should consider and document the extent to which the project will further the achievement of the Maniapoto Environmental Management Plan and Maniapoto Priorities for Restoration of the Waipā River Catchment. Discussion of such projects with the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board is required.

Priorities for Trust funding in this area include:

- Projects that address or demonstrate tangible outcomes for water quality, in particular through reduction of sediment and E.coli load to the Waipā River
- Restoration of river network connectivity to enable biota to access upstream habitats
- Wetland protection and restoration including of puna
- Protection of habitat of significant fish species including tuna and pihirau
- The preservation of sites of significance along the Waipā River
- The outcomes of the Upper Waipā Feasibility Study
- Stream/awa health monitoring programmes that contribute to a wider monitoring framework (e.g. Iwi Cultural Health Indicator monitoring).

3. Above the Karapiro Dam to the Huka Falls referred to in map Area B and part of map Area A (page 4)

Priorities for Trust funding in this area include:

- Projects that address or demonstrate tangible outcomes in improving water quality including through nutrient reductions
- Wetland restoration, protection and recreation, including headwater seeps and springs
- Restoration and enhancement of waterways and puna of cultural significance to iwi
- Protecting the diversity of natural landscapes such as unique geothermal landscapes
- Protection and restoration of native fish and their habitats, including improved migration corridors for native species, especially tuna
- Improving the cultural, environmental and recreational values of the Waikato River hydro lakes
- Supporting Māori land blocks to achieve sustainability outcomes, where such outcomes give effect to the Vision & Strategy
- Improving access to the Waikato River, in particular for cultural purposes such as accessing sites of significance to hapu and marae.

4. Mātauranga Māori

We support projects specifically identified as Mātauranga Māori. However Mātauranga Māori may be supported in any of the funding areas outlined and, where appropriate, this should be acknowledged.

Mātauranga Māori is usually used to mean 'Māori knowledge' – distinctive knowledge created by Māori in history and arising from their living circumstances, their worldview and their experiences.

The Trust encourages applications that recognise the important contribution of Mātauranga Māori to the clean-up of the Waikato River and its catchment. Projects that work to reinvigorate the relationship of the Waikato River Iwi and the Waikato River will be especially supported.

The Trust expects that projects involving Mātauranga Māori will be undertaken in partnership with iwi and that iwi have approved the inclusion of their Mātauranga Māori in the funding application.

Seven key areas have been identified:

- i. The improvement of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River through the practice and implementation of kaitiakitanga by its iwi, including through their tikanga

- ii. The preservation and dissemination of traditional knowledge relating to the Waikato River, including knowledge of the historical connection of iwi to the Awa
- iii. The development of kaitiaki tools to support hāpu and marae, including water quality monitoring kits
- iv. Restoration and enhancement of the mauri of the waterways in the Waikato River catchment
- v. The preservation of sites of significance to iwi, including the preservation of knowledge of sites that no longer remain
- vi. Projects that support the creation, restoration and/or enhancement of kai producing areas
- vii. Projects that incorporate māramataka to inform environmental work on the ground (e.g. using practices of the past within the māramataka framework).

5. Projects that have a community outcome associated with the Waikato River and its catchment

These may include (but are not limited to) projects that:

- Involve community catchment care groups
- Improve public access and experience of the Waikato and Waipā Rivers, including through the use of signage and electronic media
- Support liaison between groups engaged in Clean-up Trust funded projects
- Undertake educational and communication activities that promote awareness of the values important to Waikato and Waipā River Iwi and that improve catchment understanding of the Vision & Strategy
- Include a training/educational component that provides increased capacity within the skilled labour force required for river protection and restoration works
- Promote the work of the WRA and its funded projects within the community, with the aim of helping to increase engagement and participation in restoration activities.

6. Projects that contribute to iwi capacity building

- Applications that assist River Iwi Trusts in providing professional capacity building and training opportunities to their marae and hapū. This may include (but is not limited to) support with project management and reporting, Health and Safety training and field operations
- Applications that support collaboration and partnerships with tangata whenua.

7. Projects that help to demonstrate the effectiveness of projects funded by both the Waikato River Clean-up Trust and others

These may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Further development of the Waikato River Report Card
- Projects that help to demonstrate the effectiveness of the fund in stopping degradation and loss of freshwater ecosystem health and reversing past damage.

8. Projects that improve water quality and ecosystem health in streams, wetlands, lakes and drains that flow into the Waikato River and its catchment

- Projects that make use of innovative technologies and approaches to improve water quality in lakes, streams and rivers
- Projects that are likely to result in material improvements within five years
- Projects that explore the potential of regenerative agriculture for achieving the Vision & Strategy
- Projects that seek tangible outcomes across the range of ecosystem health components including:
 - Aquatic life – the abundance and diversity of indigenous biota including microbes, invertebrates, plants, fish and birds

- Habitat – the physical form, structure and extent of the waterbody, its beds, banks and margins, riparian vegetation and connections to the floodplain
- Water quality – the physical and chemical measures of the water
- Ecological processes – their interactions among biota and their physical and chemical environment.

4/ How to make an application

4.1. How to make an application

All applications for funding must be completed using the application portal available on the Authority’s website www.waikatoriver.org.nz.

Under the ‘funding applications’ section of the website there is a series of videos to help you through the application process. These include:

1. An introduction to WRA funding
2. How to make a funding application
3. Tips for your project plan

We recommend you put together a project plan before attempting to start the application as this will make completing the application form easier.

All applications requesting \$100,000 or more from WRA are required to attach a project plan. This is because more detail is required other than that provided in the application form.

For projects less than \$100,000 it is highly recommended that a basic project plan is submitted containing additional information to that provided in the application form.

- A project plan should include (but not be limited to):
 - An overview of the reasons for the project
 - A detailed description of intended results/deliverables
 - A detailed breakdown of all work required
 - Detailed costings (showing cost assumptions - hourly rates, quotes, etc)
 - Map showing the location of the proposed work (if applicable)
 - Photos of the works site/s (if applicable).

See the video on the ‘Funding applications’ section of the WRA website for tips on preparing your project plan.



4.2 Information requirements

The application form requires you to answer questions related to the following:

Purpose of the proposed project

- A summary of why you are undertaking the work

Project goals and methods

- Detailed outputs and outcomes of your project once it is fully completed e.g. what project partners can expect to see for their funding. Goals must be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound). An example goal could be – two kilometres of stream is fenced (at least 5 metres back from the stream edge) to exclude stock by 2021.
- Also provide detail on how your project will be undertaken including methods for physical works and who will carry them out (e.g. volunteers, contractor)

Project tasks/costs

- A breakdown of the estimated costs (in GST inclusive amounts) of the proposed project, clearly linking costs to the tasks. Identify any matching or supplemental funds that are to be provided by others.

Project Management

- Applications can include costs associated with Project Management. **However, if project management costs for the project are greater than 10% of the overall project budget a breakdown of the estimated hours and cost per hour associated with project management is required.** Project components such as consultation and community engagement are not considered project management, but rather part of project delivery, and should therefore be itemised separately from Project Management.
- WRA would normally expect not to cover the entire cost associated with Project Management so this is an item of expenditure that co-funding should be sought for.
- Project Management costs can include:
 - General office overheads
 - Printing and stationery
 - Preparing reports and invoices to WRA
 - Procurement of resources for the project
 - Time spent paying project related invoices
 - Contractor management
 - Project planning and oversight
 - General vehicle mileage for PM related work
 - Health and Safety planning.
- WRA will not pay for:
 - Time spent undertaking GST returns and general accounting
 - Annual returns to the companies office
 - Accountants costs
 - Costs associated with operating a Trust or Incorporated Society
 - Insurance costs.

Funding for non-permanent exotic forests

- WRA will consider contributing funding towards afforestation using non-permanent exotic species (e.g. pine, eucalyptus, etc) for projects/areas identified in the Waikato and Wāipa River Restoration Strategy. Any WRA contribution towards planting exotic non-permanent forests in these areas is capped at \$500 per hectare towards site prep, plant purchase and planting and labour costs. No funding will be provided towards forestry maintenance.
- Funding of permanent forests will be prioritised over non-permanent forests

Vision & Strategy

- Outline how the proposed project will contribute to the Objectives and Strategies in the Vision & Strategy.

Fit with funding strategy and other priorities

- Identify how the criteria and priorities for the Trust are met, as outlined in this Funding Strategy 2020. Outline how the project fits with the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study (WRISS) and/or Waikato and Waipa Rivers Restoration Strategy.

Iwi Environmental Plans

- Identify how the project furthers the relevant iwi environmental plan.

Consultation and letters of support

- A summary of people who you have consulted with (including iwi, regional council, landowners) and any letters of support for the project.

Personnel, skills, previous experience

- Identify the proposed team and their respective roles, including any subcontractors (where known). Provide a synopsis of the organisation's relevant experience for the proposed project. CVs are not required.

5/ Application evaluation

5.1 Independent Evaluation Panel

All applications are assessed by an Independent Evaluation Panel. This panel is appointed by the Waikato River Authority Trust Fund Manager in consultation with the Chief Executive. Panel membership is rotated periodically to ensure there is a balance between continuity and a spread of expertise across the range of applications we expect to receive.

No external parties influence appointment on the Independent Evaluation Panel, although the Trust does seek to have an appropriate Waikato Regional Council staff member participate so we can directly access the body of technical knowledge within council, and avoid funding duplication.

Conflicts of interest between panel members and applications are managed as they arise. There are two further stages after the recommendations are received from the Evaluation Panel before a project is accepted for funding:

1. The full board of the WRCUT considers the recommendations from the Independent Evaluation Panel and makes a final funding decision
2. The Trust Fund Manager works with successful applicants to ensure a Deed of Funding is completed to our satisfaction. If it is not, a recommendation will go back to the full board for consideration.

