



Waimakariri
BIODIVERSITY TRUST



Photo by Mike Kwant, taken at Ashley Rakahuri Estuary

Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust 2025 Funding Guide

A comprehensive guide to funding available for environmental projects and organisations within the Waimakariri District.

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Community, hapū & iwi, and environmental funds

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Rātā Foundation	Open all year	Charities, registered legal groups	Focuses on empowering people to thrive and strengthen communities. Prioritises projects involving people in actions benefiting our natural environment and supporting climate mitigation and adaptation.	Small grants - less than \$20,000 Large grants - anything over \$20,000	https://ratafoundation.org.nz/en/funding/
Lion Foundation	Open all year	Charities, registered legal groups	Grants for a wide and diverse range of charitable purposes, including arts, culture, heritage and environment.	In 2024 \$36.5million was distributed	https://lionfoundation.nz/criteria-for-applications/
Mazda Foundation	Applications by: 31 March and 30 Sep.	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	Provides help to a broad cross-section of charitable entities, causes and individuals, including maintenance and improvement of the natural environment	Projects up to \$5,000	https://www.mazda.co.nz/foundation/
Aotearoa Gaming Trust	Open all year	Charities, registered legal groups	Funding provider to a wide range of community groups and charitable causes within New Zealand.	In Sep-Dec 2024 \$155,494 was distributed across Waimakariri	https://www.agt.nz/funding/what-we-fund
Tindall Foundation	Open all year	Charities, registered legal groups	Supports connected approaches that mitigate climate change, enhance biodiversity, and address equitable adaptation and a transition towards the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment. Prioritises Te Ao Māori knowledge and aspirations, encourages joined-up approaches.	Funds local projects up to \$15,000 Large regional donations and impact investment loans also available.	https://tindall.org.nz/environment/
World Wildlife Fund NZ Community Conservation Fund	Applications by August	Charities, registered legal groups	In partnership with the Tindall Foundation, supports communities and educational facilities to run projects that conserve and restore New Zealand's natural environments and the native species in these habitats.	Projects up to \$15,000	https://wwf.org.nz/community-conservation-and-education-fund
ANZ New Zealand Staff Foundation	Applications by 15 Feb and 15 Aug	Charities, registered legal groups	Supports charities to assist communities to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic resources.	Projects up to \$25,000	https://www.anz.co.nz/about-us/corporate-responsibility/community/staff-foundation/

Community, hapū & iwi, and environmental funds

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Simplicity Foundation	Open all year	Charities, registered legal groups	Supports projects to protect and restore biodiverse, natural environments throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.	Most giving is to charity partners, however additional project funding available	https://simplicity.kiwi/about-us/our-foundation
Brian Mason Trust	Applications by 31 March and 30 Sep	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	Allocates grants for the advancement of scientific and technical objectives, including environmental research in Canterbury and Westland,	Projects between \$2,000 and \$15,000	https://brianmasontrust.org/grant-guidelines/
Herenga ā Nuku - Enhanced Access Grants	Open all year	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	Offers enhanced access grants to help individuals and organisations with projects that improve public access to the outdoors.	\$25,000 available for 2024-2025	https://www.herengaanuku.govt.nz/advice/trail-makers/enhanced-access-fund
Harcourts NZ Foundation	Applications by 30 March and 28 Aug	Charities, unregistered groups	Provides grants to community-based organisations to fund projects benefiting as many people as possible.A	Projects between \$2,500 and \$5,000	https://www.harcourtsfoundation.org/new-zealand
Ngāi Tahu Fund	Applications by 31 March	Hapū and iwi	Registered tribal members and Ngāi Tahu associated groups can apply for funding for projects designed to meet specific cultural objectives.	Three funding levels: Small - up to \$5,000 Medium - up to \$30,000 Large - \$30,000 and over	https://ngaitahu.iwi.nz/opportunities-and-resources/for-whanau/find-an-opportunity/ngai-tahu-fund/
Tiaki Wai fund	Open all year	Hapū and iwi	Te Wai Māori Trust provides the Tiaki Wai fund to support iwi, hapū, and whānau to fulfill aspirations for freshwater fisheries in their rohe.	Funds projects up to \$7,500	https://waimaori.maori.nz/tiaki-wai-fund/
Wai Ora Fund	Check website	Hapū and iwi	Supports the promotion and sharing indigenous fisheries' expertise, knowledge and understanding; increasing the quality and range of information to iwi and hapū on freshwater fisheries; and enhancing the health and wellbeing of the indigenous fisheries	Funds projects up to \$50,000	https://waimaori.maori.nz/wai-ora-fund/
Trees that Count	2026 tree requests by Sep 2025	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	Crowdsourcing funder that donates native trees to planting projects.	Funds 500+ trees for native planting projects	https://treesthatcount.co.nz/planters

Community, hapū & iwi, and environmental funds

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Fish and Game - Game Bird Habitat Trust	Applications by 30 June	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	For the development and enhancement of habitat benefiting game birds and other wetland inhabitants.	Between \$85,000 and \$120,000 available	https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/environment/nz-game-bird-habitat-trust/download-forms/
Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund	Open all year	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	International fund that considers grants for the conservation of any threatened or poorly known animal, plant or fungus species.	Projects up to US\$25,000	https://application.speciesconservation.org/
Sargood Bequest	Applications by 30 Nov	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	For projects and activities in community, environmental and education with a focus on access, participation and inspiration.	Projects up to \$5,000	https://www.sargoodbequest.org.nz/
DB Environmental Trust	Open all year	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	To encourage and assist students, researchers and landowners, with projects and initiatives that enhance understanding of environmental issues	Projects between \$1,000 and \$2,000	http://www.dbetrust.org.nz/funding/
Mainpower Waimakariri Biodiversity Fund	Applications by 29 April	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	Up to \$10,000 for local projects that enhance biodiversity in the Waimakariri region.	\$10,000 available in 2025	https://www.wbt.org.nz/mainpower-biodiversity-fund
Predator Free NZ - Communities Fund	Applications by 9 March. Round two open July	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	For community trapping groups to purchase traps, monitoring equipment, bait and trap-building materials	Projects between \$1,000 and \$5,000	https://predatorfreenz.org/about-us/predator-free-new-zealand-trust/predator-free-communities/
Auckland Zoo - Small Grants Program	Check website	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	For projects that have a clear conservation value New Zealand wide.	Projects between \$2,000 and \$4,000	https://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/get-involved/small-grants-programme
Fonterra and NZ Landcare Trust - Revitalising Wetlands Fund	Expressions of interest by June	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	One wetland project per region will be selected. All landowners can apply. Projects in dairy intensive areas preferred. Community-led projects eligible.	Ten grants of \$25,000 available each year	https://landcare.org.nz/project/regenerating-wetlands-with-fonterra-doing-good

Perpetual Guardian funds

To apply for funding with Perpetual Guardian, you'll need to register for an account with the Perpetual Guardian Funding Hub.

Website: <https://www.perpetualguardian.co.nz/philanthropy/grant-seekers>

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Robert C Bruce Charitable Trust	Applications by 2 May	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	For afforestation projects on public land including - planting or replanting of forest or native bush, plant maintenance, and research of state forests including forest fire fighting. Research grants (for individuals) for research directly related to forests and afforestation.	Projects up to \$15,000	Through Perpetual Guardian Funding Hub
James Maxwell Heron Charitable Trust	Opening May	Charities, registered legal groups	For charitable purposes in Kaiapoi and surrounding districts	In 2024 \$20,000 was available. Projects up to \$10,000	Through Perpetual Guardian Funding Hub
Stout Trust (Estate of John David Stout)	Opening July	Charities	National grant to advance and support the preservation of natural or historic sites or amenities for public enjoyment	In 2023 approx \$800,000 was available	https://www.perpetualguardian.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/The-Stout-Trust-FAQs-May-2024-1.pdf
Clyde Graham Charitable Trust	Opening Sep	Charities, registered legal groups	2025 funding objectives to be announced. Check website	In 2024 \$107,000 was available	Through Perpetual Guardian Funding Hub

Environment Canterbury - Waitaha Action to Impact Fund

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Waitaha Action to Impact Fund	Check website	Charities, registered legal groups	For building community engagement and action for a better environment in Canterbury.	In 2024/25 \$300,000 was available	https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/support/waitaha-action-to-impact-fund/

Department of Internal Affairs - Te Tari Taiwhenua funds

To apply for funding with Department of Internal Affairs you will need a RealMe login and to create an account on the Community Matters Grants System

Website: <https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/logging-into-the-grants-management-system/>

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)	Applications by 14 May	Charities. Unregistered groups may be considered (contact support advisors)	For non-profit community groups and organisations delivering community-based social services, projects and events.	Projects up to \$12,000	https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/community-organisations-grants-scheme/
Lottery Environment Heritage Fund (LEF)	Applications by 20 Aug and 3 Dec	Charities, local and regional government bodies, unregistered groups, individuals	Provides grants for plans, reports and one-off projects that will protect, conserve and promote New Zealand's natural, cultural and physical heritage.	Small grants - less than \$250,000. Large grants - \$250,000 or more (one third internal funding required)	https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-environment-and-heritage/

Department of Conservation funds

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
DOC Community Fund	Check website	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	Supports community-led conservation projects on public and private land. Funding is available for community groups, iwi and private landowners. Projects must protect and restore threatened species and ecosystems	For the 2024 round only projects with a budget over \$150,000 were considered	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/doc-community-fund/
Nature Heritage Fund	Check website	Charities, local and regional government bodies, unregistered groups, individuals	For private landowners, local government, community groups, and others to permanently protect high value ecosystems - by land purchase, covenanting, leasing, accords, and management agreements.	Check website	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nature-heritage-fund/
Mātauranga Kura Taiao Fund	Open all year	Hapū and iwi	For whānau, hapū and iwi to preserve traditional Māori knowledge and its practical use in the management of indigenous biodiversity.	In 2023/24 up to \$70,000 was distributed	https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/nga-whenua-rahui/matauranga-kura-taiao-fund/

Waimakariri District Council funds

Fund name	2025 Dates	Who can apply?	Funding objectives	Amount guide	Link
Waimakariri Biodiversity Contestable Fund	Applications by 30 April and 30 Sep	Charities, unregistered groups, individuals	For projects which advance, protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity. Particularly high priority sites, or restoration in line with a high quality restoration plan.	Check website	https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/council/funding-and-grants/biodiversity-contestable-fund
Waimakariri Biodiversity Contestable Fund - Community Organisations	Re-opens 2027-28	Charities, registered legal groups	For community organisations working to protect indigenous biodiversity in the Waimakariri District, particularly for freshwater and estuarine ecosystems.	\$20,000 available annually for up to three years.	https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/council/funding-and-grants/biodiversity-contestable-fund
Biodiversity Contestable Fund – Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy (NES) Implementation	Open autumn	Charities, registered legal groups	For financial assistance to community groups working to protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecological values in the Waimakariri District.	\$10,000 available	https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/council/funding-and-grants/biodiversity-contestable-fund
Community Boards: Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Rangiora-Ashley Woodend-Sefton Oxford-Ohoka	Open all year	Charities, unregistered community groups	For projects that enhance community group capacity and/or increase participation in local community activities.	Limited to \$750	https://www.waimakariri.govt.nz/council/funding-and-grants/board-grants-and-funding

Funding support

For assistance in selecting the grants best suited to your organisation or project contact the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust or the Waimakariri District Council Biodiversity team to arrange a consultation.

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