



Mahurangi Action Plan

Grants Funding Guide for Applicants

Background

The Mahurangi Action Plan project is a pro-active initiative launched by the Auckland Regional Council in 2004, to address the sedimentation problem occurring within the Mahurangi catchment.

The Action Plan involves rural land users, the forestry industry, marine farmers, lifestyle block owners, quarry operators and the local community, to ensure they all become part of the solution. As part of the Action Plan, the ARC provides support and funding to assist landowners to undertake practical works on their land to reduce the potential for sediment generation.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Mahurangi Action Plan is to halt, slow or reverse the adverse effects of sedimentation on the health of the Mahurangi harbour.

The secondary objectives of the Action Plan are:

- To enhance and protect the existing freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems including water quality, riparian vegetation, stream morphology, habitat availability/quality and enhance the biodiversity of the catchment.
- To achieve more sustainable farming and forestry practices.
- To assist the community to take ultimate ownership of protecting the estuary through a shared vision.
- To increase community and landowner understanding of the integration between land management issues and environmental consequences.
- To ensure the quality of estuary for swimming and fishing is maintained or enhanced.
- To enhance amenity values are maintained or enhanced.
- To improve and enhance the existing cultural values of the harbour.
- To ensure the economic value of the harbour activities is maintained or enhanced.

Scope

The Grants Fund is directed at restoration and improvement projects that are designed to protect and enhance land, streams and waterways, and reduce the potential for sediment generation. These projects could involve, fencing off streams, waterways and wetlands, undertaking riparian planting, retiring erosion-prone land, and changing land management practices.

Grants Assessment Criteria

For an application to be successful, it must meet the following conditions:

- All applications must be on a cost-sharing basis, between the landowner and the ARC.
- The proposal must bring a new area under protection, and must provide benefits by preventing and/or mitigating erosion.
- There must be an on-going commitment to maintenance and management by the property owner, via a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The proposal must be designed to be self-supporting, without on-going financial contributions from the ARC.
- The proposal must comply with ARC's best practice requirements, as appropriate for the site.
- Preference is given to properties in the priority sub-catchments and properties that have a MAP farm plan.



Applications will be assessed against the following criteria and rated on a scale of 1- 10.

Primary Criteria

The **primary criteria** for assessing the application are:

- (i) What is the current sediment generation capacity from the area to be protected?
- (ii) What is the effectiveness of the proposed control measures?

Priority subcatchment (based on sediment generation within area)

- 10 Ducks Creek; Dyers Creek
- 7 Te Kapa
- 5 Pukapuka
- 0 Outside of priority areas

Sediment generation potential

Sediment generation potential as assessed by an ARC officer. Two criteria out of 5 – slope class and % area affected by erosion

Slope class

- 5 F and G
- 3 D and E
- 1 B and C
- 0 A

% area affected by erosion

- 5 50%+
- 4 40% - 49%
- 3 30% - 39%
- 2 20% - 29%
- 1 10% - 19%
- 0 0% - 9%

Effectiveness of proposed works

- 10 Retirement fencing and alternative water supplies
- 5 Planting
- 3 Other works

Secondary Criteria

The **secondary criteria** for assessing the level of funding are:

Percentage Contribution

Percentage of total amount to be contributed by landowner

- 10 75%+
- 7 67%-74%
- 5 50%-66%
- 3 33%-49%
- 0 <33%

Area to be protected

Area to be protected by proposed works

- 5 5ha plus
- 3 3 – 5ha
- 1 1 – 3ha
- 0 0 – 1 ha

Outstanding LAF works

Dependent on length of time works outstanding

- 5 zero
- 3 0 - 12 months
- 1 1 - 2 years
- 0 2 years plus

Strategic linkages

1 point given for the following contributions to the overall goals of MAP

- A. Community leadership
- B. Community plantings
- C. Strategic relationship opportunities
- D. Farm Plan Recipient
- E. Large farm (100ha plus)

Ecological significance

Based on ecological significance

- 5 area to be protected is ecologically significant
- 4 ecologically significant area on same property
- 3 ecologically significant area adjacent to property
- 2 ecologically significant area within 1km of property
- 1 ecologically significant area within 5km of property
- 0 ecologically significant area beyond 5km of property

Contiguous linkages

Whether works links to existing protected areas on the property

- 5 yes
- 0 no

Wetlands

Whether works involves protection of a wetland

- 5 yes
- 0 no

Operation of the Fund

Applications will be considered by the Grant Funding Assessment Team, consisting of two ARC Councillors, the Director, Environmental Management and the Mahurangi Action Plan Project Leader.

The 2009/10 funding round will commence on **1 July 2009** and close on **31 July 2009**. Applications will be required to be made on the prescribed form, and be accompanied by sufficient supporting information, e.g. fencing/planting plans, plant lists, maintenance schedule, and monitoring actions.

The level of funding support to be approved will be up to **75% of the total costs of the project**, depending on the level of benefit that will be gained and the assessment of the application against the funding criteria. (For the purposes of this project, "total costs" includes the costs of materials such as fencing, plants, weed spray, fertiliser, soil stabilisation matting and labour costs for fence installation and planting).

A maximum grant of up to **\$20,000** will be funded on each application. Payments will be made in arrears. Multiple applications can be lodged by a landowner within one year. Applications can also be made to the ARC Environmental Initiatives Fund in the same year.



Eligibility for Grants

All landowners, community groups and environmental groups operating within the Mahurangi catchment are eligible to apply for funding.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the ARC and comply with certain terms and conditions. Copies of the MOU and the terms and conditions of the Grants Fund are included within the Application Form.

Sending your application

Please post or email your completed application and supporting materials to Joanne Walton, Programmes Coordinator at joanne.walton@arc.govt.nz or post to:

Joanne Walton
Programmes Coordinator
Environmental Programmes
Auckland Regional Council
21 Pitt Street
Private Bag 92012
Auckland

Note that all applications must be received by 5pm on 31 July. All applications received after this time will be deemed ineligible.

Contact for Further Information

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