



Media Release
Tuesday, 12 June

Applications invited for Selwyn Natural Environment Fund

Grants to help landowners protect and manage indigenous vegetation, wetlands and wildlife habitats on their land are available from the Selwyn District Council.

The Selwyn Natural Environment Fund has given almost \$160,000 in assistance to 48 restoration and protection projects since 2006.

Fund manager SDC Strategy and Policy Team planner Andrew Mactier says previous recipients include farmers protecting and restoring native vegetation from dryland shrub and wetlands through to podocarp forest; community groups and primary school environmental groups establishing and managing new native plant sites; and part funding for a native beetle survey carried out by Lincoln University.

Beef and sheep farmers Trevor and Heather Taege of Toby Hill Farm have received two grants to assist in fencing and purchasing plants for remnant native bush areas on their Waimakariri River bank property.

"We had some areas which we'd always wanted to fence because it was in danger of getting destroyed by stock. Without the assistance from the fund, it would have taken a lot longer to make it happen," Mrs Taege says.

"Our focus in the past has been primarily on existing remnants of native vegetation sites, but this year a proportion of funding will be set aside for projects planning the establishment and management of new sites," Mr Mactier says.

Key criteria Council looks at when considering projects is evidence of commitment to the project by landowners or managers, particularly in planning and management to ensure the project's long term success and sustainability.

"It's also important that we can see the project will benefit the natural environment and increase native biodiversity. Projects looking to merely beautify areas are not considered, there must be an ecological benefit," he says.

Typically Council will fund up to \$5000 per project, with an expectation that landowners also make a similar contribution of resources.

Applications are available on the Council website: www.selwyn.govt.nz/snef or by contacting Andrew Mactier, 347 2802, andrew.mactier@selwyn.govt.nz, or Teri Findlater on 3472 729, teri.findlater@selwyn.govt.nz. Forms need to be with Council by 5pm on Friday, 27 July.

Ends

For further information, contact Selwyn District Council Planner Andrew Mactier, 347 2802, andrew.mactier@selwyn.govt.nz.