

Funding Schedule: Natural Environment Fund

1. Purpose of this fund

To encourage and assist landowners, individuals, community groups, and mana whenua to protect, restore, and enhance the natural environment.

2. Outcomes – what we will see through the initiatives funded by this fund

- Ecologically significant sites are protected and restored, particularly threatened sites and locations.
- Increased coverage of native vegetation and improved habitat for indigenous wildlife.
- Improved water quality, for relevant sites.
- Relationships and trust built with community and landowners to maximise initiatives that benefit the natural environment.
- Selwyn Biodiversity Strategy and Predator Free 2050 goals are contributed to.

3. Fund Activities

Annual fund amount	\$225,000
Fund decision makers	Assessment Panel
Fund type	Contestable
Fund frequency	Annually, with a second round if required
Fund opening and closing dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round 1: Fund opens 1 August and closes 20 September• Round 2: Fund opens 1 February and closes 20 March (if funds allow)
Decisions dates	Within two months of the closing date
Accountability requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding agreement signed by both parties.• A project summary and expenditure report.• Invoices for materials purchased, and/or labour.• Photos of work completed.• Unless prior arrangement is made, this documentation should be submitted within one year of the grant's acceptance.
Who can apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants must be residents and/or ratepayers of the Selwyn District. The funding is open to iwi, community groups, schools, landowners and individuals.
Who can't apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selwyn District Council and other Public Agencies, such as ECAN, DOC or LINZ, are excluded from applying to the fund.
What can be funded	On private land: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eco-sourced native plants.• Materials for restoration planting.• Maintenance costs.• Fencing to protect areas of existing native vegetation (primarily only for areas identified as

	<p>SNAs, and where fencing is not a legal obligation).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed control (Priority 1 and 2 sites only). <p>On public land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed control (Priority 1 and 2 sites only). <p>Consideration may be given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and research projects that benefit biodiversity protection and restoration. • Costs associated with hosting working bees as part of funded restoration projects. • Salary or wages for a specified project, such as facilitator costs for environmental workshops or coordinator costs associated with delivering the activity or programme for which the funds are requested.
What can't be funded	<p><i>In addition to Section 6.7 and 6.8 of the C213 Community Funding Policy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal gardens or beautification projects. • Purchase of exotic plants or natives that are not natural to the area (this may include native cultivars, non-eco-sourced natives or North Island plant species). • Funding will not be provided for work that is legally required or mandated by law. • Resource consent fees as a result of any activity associated with this application.
Criteria / terms and conditions	<p><i>In addition to the Criteria as in Section 3 and Section 6 of the C213 Community Funding policy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All work must be within the Selwyn District. • Funding is primarily for work on private land. However, funding may be considered for weed control on public land. Any work on public land requires approval from the relevant landowner. • For long-term projects, applicants may apply for up to three years of funding. These applications will require a project plan and provide a higher level of detail in their funding application. • Council staff may request to meet with the applicant to discuss project details and if necessary, provide advice. • Financial assistance will usually be no more than 70% of a project's total costs. • The applicants share of the costs can be by way of in-kind contributions (e.g. labour), other funding or cash. <p>Assessment Criteria: Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria, as relevant to each project:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The degree to which the work protects, benefits, or restores indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems. • The existing biodiversity values of the project area. • The long-term benefits of the work funded. • The degree of current threat to the project site e.g. from stock or invasive weeds and pests. • Evidence of the applicant's commitment to the project, including their in-kind contributions and/or co-funding. • The degree of on-going protection and maintenance for the work funded. <p>Priority Ranking</p> <p>The maximum grant allocation will depend on the priority ranking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect and restore sites that contain significant indigenous biodiversity and/or habitat, as defined by Significant Natural Area (SNA) criteria in the Selwyn District Plan 2. To help restore and protect sites with remnant native biodiversity. 3. To create new sites of native restoration planting on private land – where there is a waterway, wetland, or other important ecological feature. 4. To create new sites of native restoration planting on private land – other sites.
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