



# Selwyn



## Natural Environment Fund

### **INFORMATION and GUIDELINES**

For more information go to [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz) or call 03 347 2800

## **Information**

The Selwyn District Council runs from the alpine area of Arthurs Pass down to the sea and is bounded by the Waimakariri River to the north and the Rakaia River to the south. The amount of native vegetation remaining in the District varies but declines rapidly from the hills to less than 1% on the plains. The Canterbury Plains is listed as an acutely threatened natural environment which makes remnant native biodiversity surviving rare and important.

A growing number of landowners are protecting and restoring areas of native vegetation on private land. The Selwyn Natural Environment Fund was established as a response to the decline of native biodiversity in the District to encourage and assist private landowners to carry out work that benefits the natural native environment.

The fund is a contestable fund which is assessed and approved once a year by a panel. Priority of funding is given to sites identified by the Selwyn District Council as potentiality significant natural areas or where significance has been confirmed through an ecological assessment of a site by SDC. Applications on areas not recorded as SNA's are welcome and will be measured against the funding criteria.

## **Guidelines**

### ***who can apply***

The fund is open to residents and ratepayers of the Selwyn District – individuals or groups – for work on private land in the Selwyn District. Selwyn District Council and other Public Agencies, such as ECAN, DOC or LINZ, are excluded from applying to the fund.

### ***How to apply***

Applications will be accepted throughout the year with the closing date no later than 5pm ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF MAY. Applications will be acknowledged upon receipt.

### **Return completed application form to:**

**Selwyn Natural Environment Fund  
Selwyn District Council  
PO Box 90  
ROLLESTON 7643**

The application must be a signed original of this application form. Applicants are encouraged to attach any supporting documents, such as planting plans, diagrams, maps, and photos. For enquiries or additional forms please contact the Selwyn District Council's Planning Department on (03) 347-2800 or [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz)

# Funding Criteria

**Applications will be assessed on merit based on criteria listed below:**

- Sites that have been identified as 'potential' Significant Natural Areas (SNA's) or confirmed SNA's.
- The degree to which the work improves, protects, benefits, enhances, restores or reinstates native natural resources – in particular, land, vegetation, wetlands or bird habitat
- The native natural values of the area to which the work relates, including such things as representativeness, distinctiveness, rarity, and long term sustainability.
- The long term benefits of the work funded.
- The degree of current risk to the natural values being restored, enhanced, protected or maintained as a result of your project.
- If part of a long term project, evidence of the applicant's commitment to it.
- The degree of on-going protection for the work funded – for example, if new planting, that it is protected from stock.

## Terms and Conditions

1. Grants will be allocated on a case by case basis but will not generally exceed \$5,000 (GST inclusive).
2. Financial assistance will usually be no more than 50% of a project's total costs.
3. The applicants share of the costs can be by way of in kind contributions (e.g. labour), or cash.
4. Unless prior arrangement is made, grants must be paid out within one year of the awarding of the grant.
5. Preference for funding will generally be given to those who have not received grants from this fund in the past.
6. Approval of funding may be subject to conditions.
7. All decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
8. The assessment panel may wish to visit sites prior to making a decision.
9. The fund recipients will be required to either make progress reports, or a final report on the project after the grant monies have been spent.
10. The Fund recipient will be required to present receipts for the work done and a statement confirming that the work has been carried out in accordance with the information presented in the application, prior to payment of the grant.

### The fund is not available:

11. For work that there is a legal obligation to do;
12. To compensate for work already done. It is intended to assist with the cost of future work;
13. For the entire cost of a project. It will complement the applicant's contributions;
14. For beautification projects, or to support those driven primarily for financial gain;
15. For resource consent fees as a result of any activity associated with this application.

#### DISCLAIMER

The Council hereby undertakes to all applicants that information concerning private property supplied in this application, or obtained when assessing it, will be used by the Council for no purpose other than for assessing the application or if considered appropriate, for publicity purposes. However, once an application has been received, the information contained within it becomes public information, accessible by members of the public when requested.