

Matamata-Piako Significant Natural Features Grant Assessment Criteria

General

The Matamata-Piako Significant Natural Features Grant is a contestable fund of \$25,000 per year that is administered by the Matamata-Piako District Council. This fund serves two purposes:

1. To provide rates remissions to land owners who protect and preserve significant natural features;
2. To encourage and assist landowners and members of the community to protect, manage and enhance the significant natural features in the District through funding assistance of up to 50% of the project cost.

Funding

These significant natural features include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Stands of native trees
- Areas of native bush
- Wetlands

This fund will give preference to those sites that are either:

- Already protected in perpetuity (these include QEII Covenants, listed under Schedule 3 – Outstanding Significant Natural Features and Trees, and Other Protected Items, or any other formal protection method); preference will be given to those areas that have some form of formal protection.
- Identified as significant through an ecological assessment of the site, (undertaken by a qualified ecologist and ecological assessment to be provided).

Priority will be given to habitats of Regional or National Significance by meeting one or more of the criteria in paragraph 5 (XI) of Appendix 1 of the District Plan.

All areas for funding **must** be located with the Matamata-Piako boundary, therefore any area or part area outside the boundary will be ineligible for funding.

Please Note: No funding will be released prior to sites being formally protected in perpetuity. Funding will not be released until Council receives evidence that the land owner has registered a covenant or other appropriate legal instrument on the title.

Criteria for Assessment

The following criteria will be used to assess the application, and in some instances, a visit to the site may be warranted.

- Appendix 1 of the Matamata-Piako District Plan;
- The degree to which the work improves, enhances, benefits, protects or reinstates indigenous natural resources;
- Evidence of landowners future commitment to the project, the long term benefit, including the future management protection of the site;
- The level of ecological benefits;

Further Information

In each financial year (July to June) there will be one funding round. The funding round is open to all residents/ratepayers and groups of the Matamata-Piako District and will be advertised through the local papers as a public notice. Public agencies such as DoC, Environment Waikato, LINZ etc are excluded from applying for the funds. Preference for funding will be given to those applications that meet the criteria stated above. The level of community involvement with a site may in some instances be used as further criteria for assessment of funding allocation.

The total amount available to an application is solely at the discretion of the panel assessing the application. The funds will be allocated on completion of the project.

The funds cannot be used for:

- Work that there is a legal obligation to do;
- Compensation for work already commenced;
- Work for financial gain to the landowner/occupant;
- Any resource or building consent fees as a result of the proposed activity;
- Costs for the preparing and lodging of your application;
- Debt servicing.

If the applicant breaches any of these conditions, Council will require that either the full or a determined partial amount of the funds provided be refunded.

If you are GST registered, please do not include GST in your costs

How to Apply

Complete the application form and supply all necessary documents that support your application to:

Community Development
Matamata-Piako District Council
PO Box 266
Te Aroha 3342