

Environment Southland
**ENVIRONMENTAL
ENHANCEMENT
FUND**

A guide to funding requirements
and application form

The Environmental Enhancement Fund

Southland has lots of special native species and ecosystems that are at risk from animal pests, weeds and land development. Environment Southland is committed to supporting landowners and communities who want to protect and enhance native environments.

If you are undertaking restoration in a forest, wetland or any other native ecosystem, the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) may be able to help you.

► What does the EEF cover?

- Projects that enhance or protect areas with existing native biodiversity values e.g. native forest remnants, wetlands
- New projects or expansion of existing projects.
- Projects on private land.
- Projects on public land where active management by the relevant authority (e.g. council) is absent.
- Single and multi-year projects.
- Projects within the Southland Region.



► How much funding is available and when can I apply?

- Environment Southland has allocated \$300,000 to the fund each year until July 2025.
- The EEF will contribute up to 50% of the project costs.*
- A grant from the EEF will cover the direct cost of materials and labour used in the project.
- Applications can be submitted at any time with the deadline being April 30 and September 30 each year.
- Applicants will be advised of funding decisions in May and October each year.

* Requests for a greater contribution will be considered on a case by case basis.



► What activities qualify for funding?

The EEF will fund many activities including:

- Pest animal control.
- Weed control.
- Fencing.
- Work to return the natural flow of water.
- Native planting.
- Plant maintenance (if included in new multiyear project).

► Who can apply for funding?

Private land owners, trusts, individuals or community groups can apply to the fund. Landowner permission is required if the applicant is not the landowner.



► Providing significant benefits to biodiversity

Priority will be given to projects that use best practice techniques and provide multiple benefits to biodiversity.



► Project sustainability and long-term protection

Projects need to include a plan for the maintenance of any restoration works after the funds have been invested. This is to ensure that the biodiversity gains are secured for the future. The landowner will need to agree to the maintenance of the project by completing the landowner agreement form.



► What is not covered by the EEF?

- The maintenance of existing projects for work undertaken prior to October 2021
- Retrospective applications for work that has already been completed
- Resource consent applications or mitigation requirements
- Projects for profit
- Employment of staff not directly involved in on-the-ground protection or enhancement works
- Amenity plantings and landscaping
- Wetland creation
- Projects with limited or no existing native biodiversity values
- Projects where enduring benefits to biodiversity are deemed limited because the project is not to best practice, is ineffective or damaging.



► The application, selection and payment processes

- Applicants submit their project application and are notified when to expect a decision.
- Once a project is approved, the work can go ahead
- When the work is complete, the applicant submits an invoice and a project report
- Environment Southland completes a site inspection
- On satisfactory completion of the project, the funds are released.

Projects must be completed and costs invoiced between 1 July and 30 June. If circumstances change and the project cannot be completed within this timeframe, a formal request must be made to Environment Southland seeking an extension to the deadline before 30 April. Funding approved in April will become available in the following period between 1 July and 30 June.

► Not sure if your project qualifies?

You can contact Environment Southland with any questions about your application. We can help you design a project, and can provide you with a free ecological survey to help you understand your site in greater detail.



To help complete your application

The EEF application form is available on Environment Southland's website and must contain the following information:

► General information

- Applicant contact details
- Landowner contact details
- Copy of the landowner agreement
- Legal description of the land
- Any formal legal protection that may apply to the site, e.g. a QE II Covenant.
- The objectives of your project

► Biodiversity specific information

- Biodiversity values at the site, the nature of the ecosystem and presence of any notable species. You can submit photographs to support your application if you wish.
- If the site has had any kind of biodiversity survey completed, please notify us, as the information from the survey can support your application.
- Details of damage or threats that the site is suffering from.

► Project work plan

Applicants must submit a project work plan in addition to this funding application form and an annotated map, aerial photograph or line drawing which illustrates what is planned for where.

Set out what the project entails and what you intend to do to protect and enhance the biodiversity values at the site. Depending on the scale of the proposed project, the project plan may be short and simple, or long and complex. As a guide, projects plans must at least include some reference to the following:

- **Goals:** Why are you planning this project (e.g. increase native bird life).
- **Objectives:** What the project aims to do (e.g. predator control – rats).
- **Methods:** How, and how much, who, where (must include an estimate of the project area size in hectares), when and what you plan to do and need for your objectives, (e.g. rats– Goodnature A24s plus lure x 6 installation, contractor x 1day, lines 100m, lines 100m apart, traps 50m apart, at area size 2ha, install in March)
- **Maintenance:** How, who and when do you plan to maintain your project (e.g. rat traps – service check 1 x per 3 months, contractor)
- **Success:** What would success look like for your project? How will you know when you get there? (e.g. rat control – initial hit rate = X, follow up hit rate = X, bird life +1 year = X).

► Additional project advice

Planting projects

- Include site preparation and follow-up weed control
- Include the number and type of plants and approximate spacing, materials e.g. tree guards, and equipment
- Provide evidence that plants have been eco-sourced where possible

Animal pest control projects

- Include which pest you will target and the method you will use
- The number and type of traps or bait stations you need details of how the control will be carried out

Weed control projects

- Explain which weed you will target and the method you will use e.g. spraying, include the type of poison and the application rate if applicable.

Fencing projects

- Include location map of proposed fencing.

- Include details of the type and length of fencing needed
- Describe any site preparation needed e.g. if the line needs to be cleared.

To ensure your application has the best chance of being successful, we encourage applicants to submit plans which incorporate best practice techniques, where applicable, and to provide all relevant details to support this.

If you need help understanding what this means for your project, please get in contact with us and we will be glad to support you.

Budget

- Using the information provided in your work plan, estimate the total cost of the project, where applicable submit quotes with your application.
- Applicant's contribution, which may be in cash or in-kind. Where in-kind contributions are involved they should be costed in the proposal at no more than normal commercial rates.
- Amount of funding sought from the EEF. The EEF will provide up to 50% of the project cost. Applications for a greater contribution may be considered on a case by case basis.
- Tell us about the amount of funding that may be provided from other external sources, e.g. QEII.
- **Costing must exclude GST.**

► Contact us

The team at Environment Southland are happy to assist with further information, technical advice on projects, or assistance with your application.

Please feel free to contact us by emailing service@es.govt.nz with 'Environmental Enhancement Fund' in the subject line, or call us on 0800 76 88 45.