

Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund Criteria

About the Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund

Council has worked with the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) to develop an allocation policy guide for the Tāngata whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund. The allocation policy provides clarity with regards to the intended scope and purpose of the fund and provides consistency in decision making. The draft allocation policy was endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) at the 19 May 2022 meeting with a minor amendment to include reference to 'operational Tāngata whenua entity' in the application criteria.

What will the Tāngata whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund be contributing towards?

Council acknowledges that Tāngata whenua have a deep understanding, knowledge of, and strong connection to the environment within their region. Tāngata whenua's deep understanding and knowledge of Mātauranga Māori can assist council to perform its environmental management functions and complement council's monitoring programmes.

The Tāngata whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund is intended to support Tāngata whenua to undertake their own environmental monitoring activities. The fund is to support environmental monitoring completed by Tāngata whenua and to complement monitoring activities in projects or programmes that council and Tāngata whenua are partners in.

The fund is not intended to support monitoring:

1. that is the primary responsibility or function of another council or agency
2. that is outside the boundaries of Northland Regional Council jurisdiction.

Sharing environmental information and expertise between Tāngata whenua and council will contribute to improving the knowledge base of both parties and will assist in protecting and restoring the Mauri of fresh and coastal waters and adapting to climate change.

Maximum fund amount

Council has allocated funding for the Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund. The maximum allocation for any one application for funding is \$20,000.

Application criteria

Funding will only be granted where:

1. The applicant is an established legal or operational Tāngata whenua entity such as a marae committee, Hapū trust, Iwi Authority, or a consultant contracted to act on the entity's behalf.
2. The monitoring proposed relates to the following matters:

- monitoring by Tāngata whenua to understand the cultural and physical health of fresh and coastal waterbodies (and associated ecosystems) and / or the impacts of climate change on fresh or coastal waterways
 - development of indicators or methods for assessing the 'cultural health' of fresh and coastal waters and assessing the impacts of climate change
 - assisting in the review or development of parts of iwi or hapū environmental management plans related to the above
 - training and capacity building for Tāngata whenua to undertake environmental monitoring related to the above.
3. Monitoring data is to be made available to NRC unless there are particular sensitivities associated with some or all of the information gathered (details of which are to be identified in the application).

Application details

1. The name of the applicant and contact details
2. Bank account details and GST number (if GST registered)
3. Evidence of endorsement from the relevant marae or Tāngata whenua entity (such as minutes of relevant meetings or a supporting letter from representatives of a marae committee, hapū or iwi).
4. A description of the aims of the monitoring and expected benefits / uses it will provide and how it meets the assessment criteria.
5. The amount of funding sought and indicative payment schedule.
6. A description of:
 - a. the aspects to be monitored
 - b. the methods used to collect and record the information gathered
 - c. maps of the proposed sites to be monitored
 - d. the frequency and duration of the monitoring
 - e. A description of how the information is to be collated and reported.
7. Any proposed restrictions on use, distribution, release, or publication of the data by NRC (including any requirements relating to attribution, references, and acknowledgement of intellectual property).

Staff assistance

For further assistance, please call our office on freephone: 0800 002 004 and ask to speak to Harley Iraia or Kim Peita.

Assessment of applications

Funding applications will be considered and decided upon by a panel of the Group Manager – Governance and Engagement, the Māori Relationships Manager and Monitoring Manager. If an application is successful, a funding agreement will be drafted. This will outline the terms and conditions of the funding, a payment schedule, and details of reporting information – it should also identify any constraints on use of the data by NRC and any attribution / acknowledgements of the source if required.