

CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL POLICY

Policy Number	06-01-001		
Prepared by	Manager Planning and Environment		
Authorised by	Council		
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Policy on Biodiversity Funding

Purpose

The purpose of this fund is to maintain and enhance a network of viable habitats and ecosystems in the Clutha District by encouraging and supporting landowners who are committed to protecting, enhancing and managing indigenous biodiversity.

Policy

Council may approve funding providing the following criteria are met:

- Funding is available on a cost share basis, with the fund providing up to 50% of the total project costs (excluding gst, and recognising reasonable “in kind” or labour costs invested by the applicant);
- Funding can be provided for any activities that will protect or enhance biodiversity, including but not limited to fencing, planting, pest control and weed control;
- Preference will be given to projects which protect or enhance:
 - biodiversity values that are covered by the Government’s “National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land 2007”;
 - sites which are contained in the Clutha District Plan’s Table 13.5 Significant Wetlands or Table 13.8 Areas of Significant Habitat of Indigenous Fauna (or successors to those Tables following District Plan review);
 - sites which were Recommended Areas for Protection by the Department of Conservation but do not yet have protection through land ownership, a covenant or the District Plan;
- Funding will only be provided where the biodiversity values involved will be protected by either a protective covenant registered on the land title, or by a rule in the Clutha District Plan;
- Funding will be allocated by the Regulatory Services Committee or by Council;
- Funding will generally not be provided for activities that are required to be undertaken.

Procedures

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The application form must be completed and must identify:

- Description of the project/activity.
- How it contributes to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity values in the District.
- Total cost of project/activity.
- Contributions, if any, by applicant or other organisation.

Applications must be accompanied by:

- Site Plan
- Photographs of the project area
- Quotes for any work proposed
- Assessment of the significant values of the site that has been undertaken
- Any other supporting material or information that may be useful in considering the application

Definitions

Biodiversity – “the variability among living organisms, and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems”.

Ecosystems – ‘a place where plants and animals are dependant upon one another-and their particular surroundings-for survival’

Relevant Legislation

- Biosecurity Act 1993
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Local Government Act 2002

Legal Compliance

Related Policy and Documents

- The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- Statement of National Priorities for Protecting Rare and Threatened Native Biodiversity on Private Land
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

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- Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand 2003
- Department of Conservation Otago Conservation Management Strategy
- Otago Regional Policy Statement
- Regional Plans – Water and Coast
- Reserve Management Plans
- Clutha District Plan
- Long Term council Community Plan

Key Words

Biodiversity, ecosystem, habitats, protecting, enhancing and managing indigenous biodiversity