

Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee in conjunction with Environment Southland

MATAURA CATCHMENT GROUP GRANTS

A guide to funding requirements and applications



Mataura Catchment Group Grants

The Southland landscape has changed significantly through land development and drainage. This has made land more prone to erosion, resulted in greater and faster water runoff, reduced wetland area and riparian habitat, and increased contaminant loss (e.g. sediment, nutrients and microorganisms) to waterbodies. Catchment groups are an important component in achieving positive environmental outcomes for Southland.

The Mataura Catchment Group Grants were initiated to encourage investment in projects that complement the work of the Mataura Catchment Liaison Committee and align with Environment Southland objectives. If your catchment group is undertaking projects that benefit your catchment and wider environment, your group may be eligible for a grant.

What does the grant cover?

- ▶ Projects within the Mataura Catchment Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) of the Southland Region.
- ▶ Projects that benefit water quality, soil conservation, biodiversity and/or climate resilience in your catchment.
- ▶ Projects on public land where active management by the relevant authority (e.g. council) is absent.
- ▶ Projects on private land which benefit the wider community and catchment.
- ▶ New projects or expansion of existing projects. Single and multi-year projects.

Examples of projects that could qualify for funding.

The grant could cover projects such as:

- ▶ Wetland restoration or creation
- ▶ Detainment bunds
- ▶ Wood chip bioreactors
- ▶ Riparian planting
- ▶ Erosion control planting
- ▶ Retiring gullies
- ▶ Sediments traps

Who can apply for funding?

Catchment groups that are within the Mataura Catchment FMU. Individual landowners are not eligible for funding, applications must be made through a catchment group.

How much funding is available? And how does it work?

- ▶ Environment Southland is able to provide up to \$5,000 per Catchment Group per year.
- ▶ Applications can be submitted any time by the deadline of 30th June.
- ▶ Applicants will be advised of decisions in August.
- ▶ Priority will be given to applications that use best practice techniques, provide multiple benefits to the environment and address issues specific to your catchment.



Left: Retired gully with planting. Right: Detainment bund

What is not covered by the grant?

- ▶ Retrospective applications for work that has already been completed.
- ▶ Resource consent applications or mitigation requirements.
- ▶ Projects for profit.
- ▶ Projects with limited or no environmental benefits.

The application, selection and payment processes

1. Applicants submit their project application by June 30th of each year.
2. A panel of Maitara Catchment Liaison Committee members and Environment Southland staff will review applications.
3. Applicants will be notified of decisions in August. Once the project is approved, the work can go ahead.
4. Projects must be completed and costs invoiced after 1st August and before 30th June of the following year.
5. When the work is complete, the applicant must submit a claim form and certified invoices to Environment Southland who will complete a site inspection for reimbursement.
6. On satisfactory completion of the project, the funds are released.

If circumstances change and the project cannot be completed within this timeframe, a formal request must be made to Maitara Catchment Liaison Committee and Environment Southland seeking an extension to the deadline before 30th April or to withdraw the application.

Not sure if your project qualifies?

You can contact Environment Southland with any questions about your application. They can help you design a project, and can provide you with assistance to understand environmental issues in your area.



*Above: Erosion control planting
Below: Sediment trap*



To help complete your application

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

General application information

- ▶ Catchment group details
- ▶ Project work plan (including timeframes and budget)
- ▶ Project benefits

Additional project advice

Project plan

- ▶ Applicants must submit an annotated map, aerial photograph or line drawing which illustrates what is planned for where in addition to this funding application form.
- ▶ Depending on the scale of the proposed project, the project plan may be short and simple, or long and complex.
- ▶ The applicant should outline what the project entails, the current issues in the catchment and how the project benefits the environment. The project plan should contain the aim, methods (e.g. who, what, how).

Project Benefits

The applicant needs to clearly outline the benefits of the project to the environment e.g. water quality, climate resilience, biodiversity, soil conservation. For example:

Catchment issue:

The local stream has poor turbidity and clarity due to high volumes of sediment entering the stream. The stream also has excessive plant growth due to high amounts of phosphorus entering the waterway. Neighbouring land is rolling to steep hill country with some areas prone to soil slips.

Project idea:

Retiring a nearby gully which has steep sides prone to soil slips. The gully is a critical source area and contributes a large amount of water to the stream. Plan is to fence off the area, plant poplar poles on the steeper land prone to soil slips, build a sediment trap at the bottom of the gully and plants native in the bottom on the gully and around the pond.

Does your project benefit the following?		Describe the benefits
Soil Conservation e.g. minimising erosion, improving soil health	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>Planting poplar poles on areas prone to soil slip. The root system will bind the soil together and minimise the risk of losing large amounts of sediment.</i>
Water Quality e.g. reducing contaminants entering lakes, rivers, and estuaries	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>The sediment trap will allow sediment carried down the gully to settle out before entering the stream.</i>
Biodiversity e.g. enhancing or preserving native plants and animals	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>Native plantings around the pond will provide habitat for native animals in the area and filter contaminants.</i>
Climate Resilience e.g. reducing flooding risk, slowing flowing water	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / No	<i>The sediment trap will slow the flow of water and provide some flooding relief.</i>

Contact us

Applications close on 30 June each year. For more information about the Matura Catchment Group Grants, or to apply, you can contact a land sustainability officer at Environment Southland by emailing service@es.govt.nz with 'Matura Catchment Group Grants' in the subject line or call 0800 76 88 45.

