

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Cobb Mitigation Fund

Further information is available from projectmohua@tet.org.nz

Background

In 2002 the Cobb Mitigation Fund (CMF) was established, by Cobb Power Ltd, to protect and enhance freshwater resources as part of mitigation for existing effects of the Cobb Power scheme identified at the time of consent reapplication. The Tasman Environmental Trust (TET) administers the fund in accordance with the CMF Deed between the Cobb Power Ltd (since transferred to Trust Power) and the parties to the fund deed, being Department of Conservation (DOC), Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game Council (Fish & Game) and Manawhenua ki Mōhua (representing Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Rārua and Te Ātiawa and Iwi Trusts). TET's Golden Bay management committee, Project Mōhua, advises TET on the suitability of applications, and manages applications.

Aim of the Fund

To finance environmental enhancement projects in order to protect or enhance freshwater resources in Golden Bay

Eligibility

Groups and individuals are eligible to apply for funding. Proposed projects must be located within Golden Bay and designed to meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. Enhancing natural character, aquatic habitat and amenity, water quality or fishery values at and around the Cobb Valley and reservoir or the wider Tākaka catchment including Waikoropupū Springs and the rivers and streams flowing from those springs.
2. Enhancement of natural or man-made wetlands and, where appropriate, the creation of any new wetlands in Golden Bay.
3. Riparian vegetation enhancement in Golden Bay.

Funds Available

Project Mōhua and TET may allocate any amount of funds in a given year. Most projects are expected to be between \$5,000 to \$15,000 per annum but larger applications will be considered. Projects may be funded whole or in part, for example as leverage to attract funds from other organisations. Project Mōhua and TET is under no obligation to fund any of the projects submitted in any one year.

Term of the Project.

Funding is generally limited to a 12-month duration, however, longer term projects with annual milestone reporting will be considered. Projects that do not require on-going maintenance or where other funding arrangements are made for maintenance will be preferred. Funds are to be used within the time frame outlined in the application, however it is recognised that flexibility is necessary in some circumstances and re-negotiation of time frames will be considered.

Priorities

Priority will be given to projects addressing the adverse impacts of the Cobb Dam on the Tākaka catchment. These include loss of habitat, interruption of fish passage, and diminished water quality in the Upper Tākaka catchment. However, mitigation activities in other parts of the catchment and in other parts of Golden Bay will also be considered. Some useful guiding document on priorities include:

- [Opportunities for Ecological Restoration in the Tākaka Catchment](#) (2008)
- [Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Strategy](#) (2019)
- [Manawhenua Matauranga Report](#) (2019)

How to Apply

Applications are accepted at anytime but will reviewed and assessed biennially. The closing dates being midnight **30th Sept and 31st March**. Applications must be on the Cobb Mitigation Fund application form (online or pdf form). Further information may be requested on applications prior to a final decision.

If required, more information on eligibility is available from projectmohua@tet.org.nz.

Assessment Criteria

Project Mōhua and TET assess each assessment against the following six criteria as well as considering how it fits within the priorities of the reports referenced above.

Assessment will be made based on the information provided by the applicants.

Applicants are encouraged to address each of these criteria in their application.

1. *Ecological Significance*

- the degree to which the project addresses a serious ecological problem, a significant threat to indigenous flora or fauna, or the degree to which it improves habitat or water quality
- the urgency of threats to the area that the project could alleviate
- other risks and threats to the ecosystem(s) being enhanced by this project

2. *Relevance of the Project*

How does the project mitigate known effects of the Cobb Power station and address specific concerns of the three main parties to the fund deed (DOC, Fish & Game and Manawhenua ki Mōhua).

3. *Value for money or the magnitude of the future outcomes*

What is the amount of improvement that will be achieved in natural character, aquatic habitat, water quality and fishery values throughout Golden Bay, either directly or indirectly? Applicants will need to provide some basis for their claims.

4. *Likelihood of success of project*

- Are the outcomes likely to be achieved or are they overstated?
- Is the project difficult?
- Are there contingency plans?

5. *Track record of applicant*

What is the relevant experience of the people involved in delivering satisfactory results from similar projects, and how will the project be managed? Applicants need to provide evidence of their ability to carry out the proposed project.

6. *The extent to which the community and relevant agencies support the project*

- Are other funds available if not funded by the CMF?
- Would funding by the CMF attract other funding?
- Who else benefits and should be contributing?
- Community input of voluntary labour?
- Landowner involvement?
- Corporate contributions?
- What other funds have been sought?
- Benefits from linkages between the proposed project and other local projects.

Ineligible Purposes (not exclusive)

- Administration costs of applicant organisations
- On-going maintenance activities of projects that are already underway
- Overseas travel
- Work that a landowner is required to do by law

Possible expenses covered (not exclusive)

- Construction equipment and materials
- Assistance with labour costs
- Pest eradication and associated expenses
- Plant propagation and associated expenses
- Monitoring equipment
- Expert advice and monitoring design

Decision Process

Tasman Environmental Trust is advised on the applications by their Golden Bay management committee, the Project Mōhua Management Group, and the parties to the fund deed. Project Mōhua evaluates each application based on the criteria and forwards the detailed applications and recommended decision to TET who make the final approval on funding. Applicants will be informed of the results within two months of the application deadline.

Responsibilities for successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to sign a contract agreeing to any conditions set by Project Mōhua and TET. A final project report detailing the project outcomes, evaluation against objectives and all expenditure is required on completion of the project. There may also be a requirement for one or more interim progress reports, depending on the nature and term of the project. Forty percent of the funds will be paid in lump sum following signing of a contract and the balance paid upon receipt of a satisfactory final report following project completion. In some cases, interim payments have been made on receipt of invoices.