

**Christchurch City Council**  
**ATTACHMENTS - UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

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**Date:** Wednesday 4 March 2026  
**Time:** 9.30 am  
**Venue:** Camellia Chambers, Civic Offices,  
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b>                      2024/25 - \$20,000 (Pest control application for Kakanui covenant) BIO                      2024/25 - \$5,000 (Weed Control on Stenciliffe Farm) BIO                      2023/24 - \$52,000 (Feral Pig Control Tewahora Catchments) BIO                      2023/24 - \$5,000 (Tirowaikare Covenant weed control (Beggs)) BIO                      Maybe some funding prior in Biodiversity but fund managed outside the system.                      Other prior</p>	<p><b>Pig's Ear weed control - Le Bons Bay Conservation Trust covenant</b></p> <p>Weed control in this newly developing 40ha native forest covenant, bordered by the Le Bons Bay estuary and Dalglishs Steephead gully (SES). This block was also identified as an SES. Three years of invasive pig's ear knockback to protect very high value rocky outcrop habitats for threatened plant species.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 02/11/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 30/10/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$40,000.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$20,000.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BPCT inputs value - includes project management and management plan development for covenant which includes in depth weed control policies and actions - \$10,000.00</li> <li>• Volunteer time by Le Bons Bay Conservation Trust members and supporters - \$10,000.00</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b>                      Not applicable as the 50.50 balance will be made up of volunteer time and Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust inputs</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b>                      Contractors \$20,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$20,000.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$20,000.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust towards Pig's Ear weed control - Le Bons Bay Conservation Trust covenant.</p>

1

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- Manageable weed (pig's ear) burden by the Le Bons Bay Conservation Trust organisation after contractor mass control knockback, the key threat to this ecosystem. (Other threatening species are already being controlled by them including wilding pines)
- Awareness of the fragility of vulnerable native species especially dryland coastal forest habitats to such an invasive weed
- Well-equipped Le Bons Trust members to effectively manage ongoing weed maintenance with the right knowhow, tools and techniques and be able to educate others in identification and appropriate control techniques as they continue to involve the whole Le Bons Bay community with support from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. The follow on is that the wider Banks Peninsula community will benefit in areas with the same issue. Several are attending this weekend's workshop from different parts of the peninsula for example.

**Staff Assessment**

The area is a covenant which is part of a matrix of land tenures and values in Le Bons Bay. A buffer to nearby reserves which are critical habitat for endemic and rare species. The project targets a weed species which is also a priority for Council control and engages and aligns volunteer engagement to protect biodiversity.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Strong alignment with Councils Biodiversity Strategy and work to protect Significant Ecological Sites.
- Threatened species conservation through community engagement and support working toward enabling the local conservation trust taking over ongoing maintenance weed control.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00014\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b>                      2024/25 - \$20,000 (Pest control application for Kakanui covenant) BIO                      2024/25 - \$5,000 (Weed Control on Stencil Farm) BIO                      2023/24 - \$52,000 (Feral Pig Control Tewahora Catchments) BIO                      2023/24 - \$5,000 (Tirowaikare Covenant weed control (Beggs)) BIO                      Maybe some funding prior in Biodiversity but fund managed outside the system.                      Other prior</p>	<p><b>Weed control Kōwhai Bush and Te Ara Pātiki covenants</b></p> <p>Weed control in three established native forest covenants in the top end of Kaituna Valley; Three years of old man's beard, blackberry control along with cotoneaster and Chilean flamecreeper if funds allow). The vision is to expand efforts catchment wide bringing the entire community on board for the benefit of everyone.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 31/01/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 31/01/2029</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$40,000.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$20,000.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b>                      Landowner input in time and costs - \$10,000.00                      BPCT inputs value - incl project management and management plan development for covenant which includes in depth weed control policies and actions - \$10,000.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b>                      Not applicable as the 50/50 balance will be made up of volunteer time, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust inputs and landowner inputs</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b>                      Contractors \$20,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$20,000.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$20,000.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust towards Weed control Kōwhai Bush and Te Ara Pātiki covenants.</p>

1

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- Manageable weed levels (old man's beard and blackberry as priorities, cotoneaster and Chilean flamecreeper if funds allow) for these Kaituna covenant holders after contractor mass control knockback in remaining hotspot areas to maintain.
- Continued awareness and vigilance for these pest weeds, and their negative effect on the river health which these covenants all surround and successful regenerating and established native forest unhindered by weed issues in the few remaining problem areas
- Well-equipped covenant holders to effectively manage ongoing weed maintenance with the right knowhow, tools and techniques and be able to educate others in the community (local weeding group which they are all part of) in identification and appropriate control techniques as they continue to involve everyone with support from the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust so that the whole community benefits

**Staff Assessment**

Weed control across 3 sites protected through covenant. The general area has previously been identified as having the values to meet Significant Ecological Site criteria with multiple threatened species and ecosystems present.

Dealing with weed threats will benefit both the sites being worked on and other high value sites further down the valley, with a long-term aim of using this project as a stepping stone toward valley wide landowner engagement and action.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Strong alignment with Councils Biodiversity strategy and sites contain Significant Ecological Site values being threatened by invasive weed species.
- Landowner engagement looking to expand the project in the long term and build community engagement/awareness across Kaituna Valley.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00015\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Eco Abseil Ltd</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Mt Evans Spur Valerian and Pigs Ear Control</b></p> <p>Continue protecting/enhancing rare indigenous biodiversity on rocky outcrops and bluffs on Mt Evans. Ongoing targeted eradication of Spur valerian and Pigs Ear from rare and special ecosystems. Post control monitoring to see what species move in to fill subsequent gaps.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01/11/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 31/10/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$149,976.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$74,988.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> ECan funding of \$75,000 has been sought for this Mt Evans project, matching the figure applied for in this Christchurch City Council 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund. This amount is pending.</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Contractors \$74,988.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$74,988.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$74,988.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Eco Abseil Ltd towards Mt Evans Spur Valerian and Pigs Ear Control. Total amount to be paid in 2025/26 to be spent over three years with progress reporting to be provided in January 2027, January 2028 and January 2029.</p>

1

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- A significant reduction in Spur valerian and Pigs ear plant infestations across a number of highly significant sites of ecological value on Mt Evans, between Orton Bradley and Pigeon Bay.
- A supported period of growth and regeneration for rare and threatened indigenous flora on these sites and a subsequent return of indigenous fauna.
- Maintenance of these rare and spectacular sites of significant biodiversity for future generations, recognising their value as part of NZ's unique and remarkable ecological heritage.
- Pigs ear: Expecting initial visits will see a large initial reduction in infestations, both seedlings and mature. Follow up visits will reduce numbers further with similar ratios of seedlings to mature plants as for Spur valerian. Eventually local seed banks will be reduced to unsustainable regeneration levels, and the survey and maintenance phase can begin.
- Spur valerian: control work is closer to survey and maintenance phase. Additional twice-yearly visits will see further reduction in the growth and development of seedlings and very limited to no recurrence of mature plants. Also expected is a corresponding reduction in local seed banks leading to very low levels of regeneration in the area.
- A positive outcome for the ecologically high value rocky outcrop and volcanic bluff ecosystems in the wider Mt Evans area.

**Staff Assessment**

The proposal focuses on protecting one of Banks Peninsula's largest dry bluff-land ecosystems, nationally rare, supporting multiple threatened plant species. Specialist access required to control spur valerian and pigs ear weeds, enhancing native plant recovery and long-term habitat protection. The applicant has strong working relationships with both landowners and Council and monitoring and reporting information is important to track the threat risk/survival rates of the threatened plants found in these unique places.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- The project strongly aligns with Councils Biodiversity Strategy and supports conservation of Significant Ecological Sites.
- The project also supports working with landowners to protect threatened species.
- The project requires a highly technical approach to remove weed species threatening rare ecosystems. The cost of this approach is prohibitive for private landowners.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00006\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>The Summit Road Society</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b>                      2025/26 - \$7,000 (Avoca Valley Stream Restoration Planting Project 2026) CWPF                      2024/25 - \$45,000 (2026 Fencing and Planting for Biodiversity Restoration) BIO                      2024/25 - \$15,000 (Reforestation Project) Sus                      2024/25 - \$18,000 (Predator Free Port Hills) SCF SCH                      2023/24 - \$10,000 (Predator Free Port Hills) SCF SCH                      2023/24 - \$7,680 (Protection Rare Ecosystems) BIO                      2023/24 - \$56,534 (Port Hills Planting)</p>	<p><b>Ōhinetahi and Linda Woods Reserves Biodiversity Project</b></p> <p>Weed and pest control within Linda Woods and Ōhinetahi Reserves to restore and protect nationally significant ecosystems. These reserves contain rare volcanic bluff habitats and threatened native flora, including Banks Peninsula endemics sun hebe (Veronica lavaudiana), fescue tussock (Festuca actae), and the critically endangered Banks Peninsula forget-me-not (Myosotis lytteltonensis).</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01/01/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 31/12/2026</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$51,745.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$51,745.00</b> <b>100% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> In-kind Labour - \$52,048.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Contractors \$51,745.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$51,745.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$51,745.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to The Summit Road Society towards Ōhinetahi and Linda Woods Reserves Biodiversity Project.</p>

1

<p><b>Outcomes that will be achieved through this project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased regeneration and survival of native plant species, including threatened and endemic flora</li> <li>Improved habitat quality and ecological resilience across Linda Woods and Ōhinetahi Reserves, particularly in rare volcanic bluff ecosystems.</li> <li>Reduced wildfire risk through the creation of a strategic firebreak, enabling safer conditions for native biodiversity to flourish.</li> <li>Enhanced biodiversity through the removal of invasive weeds and targeted pest control, supporting a wider range of native birds, insects, and invertebrates.</li> <li>Protection of fragile vegetation and regenerating areas via fencing, reducing browsing and trampling by predominately sheep and potentially deer.</li> <li>Strengthened native plant layers through hand releasing and timely removal of corflute protectors, improving growth and integration into the surrounding ecosystem.</li> <li>Reduction in populations of rats, hedgehogs, possums, and mustelids through effective poisoning and trapping, and repelling of hares, allowing native fauna and flora to recover.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Assessment</b></p> <p>Rare volcanic bluff habitats and threatened native flora, including Peninsula endemics and threatened and at-risk species. Restoration targets invasive weeds and pests to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience. The project is in an area visible and well utilised by the public, enhancing the visibility and connection to biodiversity conservation projects in Christchurch.</p> <p><b>Rationale for staff recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very strong alignment with the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and Significant Ecological Site conservation.</li> <li>A highly visible area containing a number of threatened plants which may act as a visible connection to biodiversity enhancement to the public utilising the reserves.</li> </ul>
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Request Number: 2025/26\_00011\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Conservation Volunteers New Zealand</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b>                      2024/25 - \$60,000 (Whaka-Ora Pest Project) BIO                      2024/25 - \$25,000 (CVNZ Nursery) Sus                      2023/24 - \$35,000 (CVNZ Otakaro Avon River Corridor Planting 2024) Sus                      2022/23 - \$20,000 (Conservation Volunteers NZ) Sus</p>	<p><b>Whaka Ora Pest Project</b></p> <p>Established pest control programme spans over 400 hectares of CCC and DOC reserves in Lyttelton Harbour. Recent expansion into private land, working with three properties and looking to expand further, focusing on properties adjacent to trapped reserves, ecological corridors, covenanted areas, or within the Te Kākahu Kahukura (TKK) zone.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01/12/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 01/12/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$30,000.00</b>  <b>Total Requested: \$15,000.00</b>  <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b>                      LPC - \$5,000.00                      volunteer hours - \$41,700.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b>                      Nil</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b>                      Salaries and Wages \$15,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$15,000.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$15,000.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Conservation Volunteers New Zealand towards Whaka Ora Pest Project.</p>

2

<p><b>Outcomes that will be achieved through this project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of threat to indigenous biodiversity within the nominated sites. The impact of introduced animal pests on native flora and fauna needs no explanation here. WOPP will be targeting possums, rats and mustelids on these properties. In the areas targeted, reduction of these species will see enhanced health and viability of existing native vegetation together with an enrichment of native bird life.</li> <li>Further enhancement and protection for DOC and CCC Reserves and neighbouring areas where pest control is already being undertaken. Over time, WOPP seeks to provide linkages between existing predator control sites, creating a genuinely harbour-wide network to support viable functioning indigenous ecosystems.</li> <li>Enhanced understanding of pest plant sources and infestations within the harbour. Our field staff, with the landholder's permission, will use GIS to list pest plants on those properties where we are engaged in trapping programmes. This will create the basis for developing action plans to undertake weed eradication. This will be subject to future funding. This aligns with WOPP's core objectives and supports the terrestrial indigenous biodiversity objectives of the Whaka Ora Healthy Harbour Plan in establishing a 'pest plant management programme.'</li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Assessment</b></p> <p>The programme of work aims to build a mosaic of public and private properties where pest control is linking reserves and covenanted areas. Targets possums, rats, and mustelids; fosters ecological connectivity, community engagement, and knowledge-building for pest and weed management. The project is also a component of the Whaka-Ora Healthy Harbour programme of work.</p> <p><b>Rationale for staff recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somewhat aligns with the Councils Biodiversity Strategy and mostly aligns with Biodiversity Fund criteria.</li> <li>A longer-term vision as a part component of the Lyttelton harbour restoration with strong links to community and public capacity/capability building and engagement.</li> </ul>
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Request Number: 2025/26\_00012\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p>Little River Campground Ltd</p> <p><b>Funding History</b> 2024/25 - \$4,000 (Pest Eradication - Manaia Native Habitat) BIO 2020/21 - \$2,625 (Protection of the Manaia Wetland) Sustain</p>	<p><b>Manaia Native Habitat SES.</b></p> <p>As a covenant of The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust and publicly accessible SES the focus is eradication of pest plants (and animals) to give encouragement to those interested in restoring native habitat to the region. Control of weed tree (sycamore, elderberry) and blackberry are encroaching on the native habitat.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01/04/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 31/03/2027</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$8,000.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$4,000.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Herbicide - \$350.00 Chipper - \$500.00 Chainsaw - \$500.00 Labour - \$2,000.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> We have received funding from the 2024/25 round of the Biodiversity Fund, which is earmarked for our wetland area but as an ongoing project this funding would be used to remove larger trees and other areas in the covenant. Little River campground Ltd supplies equipment, fuel and labour to the project.</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Contractor \$4,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$4,000.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$4,000.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Little River Campground Ltd towards Manaia Native Habitat SES.</p>

2

<p><b>Outcomes that will be achieved through this project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By removing the seed trees, we will reduce the amount of regrowth in critical areas. Removing blackberry will encourage any small natives to maximise the light to grow and cover the area, hopefully eliminating the blackberry. By clearing slips on tracks, we can then access areas with machinery to help with the weed eradication. As a member of The Okuti River Project (2017) and Little River Trap Library we would like to continue our work of showcasing Okuti Valley as a shining example of what can be achieved by landowners and the community.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Assessment</b></p> <p>Banks Peninsula covenant and Significant Ecological Site targeting invasive sycamore, elderberry, and blackberry. Track maintenance ensures safe access for pest control and long-term habitat recovery, while providing a public demonstration of restoration success.</p> <p><b>Rationale for staff recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gives effect to the Councils Biodiversity Strategy and meets the Biodiversity Fund criteria as a significant Ecological Site.</li> <li>As a highly accessible site it provides an opportunity for a publicly visible site of ecological restoration and community education of a high value site on Banks Peninsula.</li> </ul>
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Request Number: 2025/26\_00013\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Marie Neal</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b></p> <p>Nil</p>	<p><b>Kaituna Community Weeding</b></p> <p>Community Weeding support in the Kaituna river catchment. This initiative covers both river catchment, roadside and private land managed for conservation by the locally established community weeding group.</p> <p>Top priority weeds being targeted impacting native bush and riverside vegetation. Significant native biodiversity values are present which will be enhanced greatly.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01/01/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 01/01/2029</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$60,000.00</b></p> <p><b>Total Requested: \$60,000.00</b></p> <p><b>100% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b></p> <p>Chemicals DOC - \$355.00 Chemicals ECan - \$360.00 Chemical landowners - \$509.00 Quad spray setup - \$4,300.00 DOC ranger advice/time - \$300.00 Landowner roadside spray labour - \$880.00 ECan OMB demo day - \$500.00 ECan contractors - \$8,000.00 Weeding group cut and paste labour - \$7,354.00 Adjacent landowners and volunteers - \$11,580.00 Weeding group respray blackberry and omb - \$240.00 CCC ranger support, advice - \$100.00 Monitoring set up and ongoing - \$480.00 Labour and consumables over next three years - \$67,971.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b></p> <p>Environmental Partnerships Fund</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b></p> <p>Contractors \$40,000.00 Health and safety \$6,000.00 Equipment/permanent materials purchase \$7,000.00 Consumables \$4,000.00 Contractors \$3,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$60,000.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$60,000.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Marie Neal towards Kaituna Community Weeding.</p>

2

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- Key weed threats to conservation land and rivers/streams managed to low levels in and around Kaituna riverbed and riparian margins - including directly connected private land areas.
- Roadside free of invasive transformer weeds (fennel rapidly invading tributaries from road to river).
- Thriving biodiversity: plants, invertebrates, birds, lizards and aquatic life (currently being choked).
- Free flowing river unobstructed by heavy weed infestations.
- Boosted native flora regeneration, successful seedling colonisation and establishment in the absence of weeds. Enriched balanced vegetation tiers.
- Boosted community environmental engagement - awareness, inclusion, action.
- Cooperation handling preventative weed maintenance after initial hard knockdown.
- Well-trained community members competent in the use of chemicals, equipment and weed and native plant identification.
- Strengthened positive relationships with agencies through ranger support - DOC, CCC and ECan.
- Enhanced biodiversity corridor connectivity - to three covenant projects above (including the source of the Kaituna river), private protections adjacent (Tūpari, Mikimiki Trust) to all riparian protection projects below and eventually all the way to Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere with the whole catchment community involved.
- Access and walkways throughout (informal for weed management, traplines and local people's walking enjoyment).
- An effective start to pest animal trapping - focusing on mustelids first.

**Staff Assessment**

There are Significant Ecological Sites and values in the upper and mid Kaituna Valley which are currently being impacted by weed encroachment. This proposal would both move toward releasing those values, stop weed spread further down the catchment toward Te Waihora and build a network between to community and organisations present in Kaituna Valley.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Strong alignment with the Councils Biodiversity Strategy and protection of Significant Ecological Sites, meeting Biodiversity Funding criteria.
- The project is a stepping stone toward a catchment wide approach stopping weed spread to other high value sites and building community links, awareness and working together. A parallel application has been made to the Councils Environmental Partnership Fund for the Community Trust to work on Council land alongside the community work on adjacent private land.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00019\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Orton Bradley Park Board</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b>                      2025/26 - \$11,000 (Orton Bradley Spring Fair 2025) EF                      2024/25 - \$30,000 (Orton Bradley Park Harbour Frontage Restoration Planting) BIO                      2024/25 - \$15,000 (Te Wharau stream tributaries restoration) Sus                      2024/25 - \$8,000 (Spring Fair) Events                      2022/23 - \$5,000 (Spring Fair) Events</p>	<p><b>Sea frontage and fish passage restoration</b></p> <p>Project has three parts:</p> <p>1 -Sea frontage restoration, converting grazed paddock to wildlife habitat and sea/land buffer zone.</p> <p>2 -Replacement of culvert that is restricting passage of fish up Te Wharau stream</p> <p>3 -Purchase, installation and maintenance of possum traps in the head of gullies to maximise vegetation protection.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 07/02/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 30/06/2026</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$153,475.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$53,475.00</b> <b>35% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b>                      Volunteer time - \$20,000.00                      Public donations - \$5,000.00                      Use of Equipment - \$5,000.00                      Staff time - \$20,000.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b>                      We will be applying to ECan for support of the culvert replacement - for consenting and materials. Waka Ora healthy harbour has also shown some interest in supporting this project</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b>                      Contractors \$15,000.00                      Equipment/permanent materials purchase \$8,475.00                      Equipment/permanent materials purchase \$30,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$8,475.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$8,475.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Orton Bradley Park Board towards Sea frontage and fish passage restoration for possum traps only.</p>

2

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- Increased nesting of birds on sea frontage. Vastly improved biodiversity values, and protection against storm surges
- Improved fish passage to the upper reaches of the stream. greater diversity of species in the upper reaches
- Improved vegetation cover and regeneration. Increased native tree seed source that is available for birds to transport into Te Ahu Patiki and surrounding areas

**Staff Assessment**

The possum control aspect of the application aligns with funding criteria, adding to protection for important ecological areas within Orton Bradley park and building on investment made through previous Council funding.

Parts 1 and 2 of the application do not meet Biodiversity funding criteria as the ecological value of the current paddock proposed to be replanted is low and the values being addressed through the fish culvert replacement are also low/uncertain. There are other Council funds which Parts 1 and 2 may align with being the Sustainability Fund and Waterways partnership fund which the applicant could be directed to.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Parts 1 and 2 of the application do not meet Biodiversity funding criteria and do not add benefit to significant ecological values.
- Part 3 (Possum trapping in high value ecological area) aligns with Funding criteria and builds on previously supported projects.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00017\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Pikiraki Limited</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Owhetoro Forest Restoration</b></p> <p>Owhetoro Stream, Koukourarata (Port Levy), land purchased to restore native forest ecosystem and covenanting the site to safeguard lowland forest containing 10 ha of established secondary forest, c. 10 ha of regenerating forest, and two wetlands. Project to control multiple weeds and fruiting native trees palatable to bird species.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 01/12/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 30/11/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$25,272.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$25,272.00</b> <b>100% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Volunteer time (62 weekends for 3 people working 11 hours each weekend @ living wage) - \$59,232.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> None</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Consumables \$18,722.00 Contractors \$6,550.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$25,272.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$25,272.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Pikiraki Limited towards Owhetoro Forest Restoration.</p>

2

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

Within three years, we have set ourselves the following goals:

- For Cotoneaster and Salix, which are limited to the riverbanks, our planned outcome is eradication.
- For veldt grass, our planned outcome is containment and control. We will remove reproductive individuals, destroy seedlings as they emerge, and use herbicide where needed to remove stubborn infestations.
- For Maytenus, our aim is to remove the stand of adult individuals near the entrance to our property, remove any reproductive individuals elsewhere on the property and poison seedlings as we encounter them.
- For radiata pine, our planned outcome is eradication.
- For macrocarpa, our planned outcome is that we have no wilding individuals.
- For yellow passion vine, our planned outcome is removal of all large (taller than 3 m) reproductive individuals, with ongoing control of smaller seedlings as we encounter them.
- For gorse, our planned outcome is reduced extent and seed rain of gorse by replacing existing gorse patches with targeted plantings of fenced seedlings. We will focus on the northern part of the site where there is most grass and least woody regeneration. We will tackle patches of gorse where the plants are reproductive as removing these may slow further invasion and reduce the size of the seed bank. Where we clear gorse, we will plant tree seedlings. Our logic is that any weed control will fail unless we fill the 'weed shaped holes' that we create by planting fast growing shade-inducing natives.
- Through our planting, our planned outcome is that the site will have a greater number and diversity of palatable tree species and attract more birds to Koukourarata.
- Through our planting of regional rarities, our planned outcome is that species such as miro, Olearia fimbriata, and Olearia bullata have secure populations in northern Banks Peninsula.
- Our overall outcome is to contribute 30 ha of lowland, native-dominated forest to the landscapes of northern Banks Peninsula.

All our weed control activities will follow best practice and guidelines from ECAN, and from regional professionals (e.g. discussions with Di Carter, CCC Park Ranger).

**Staff Assessment**

Protection of existing and re-establishment of rare lowland forest is a priority. Building on the remaining forest remnant the project is aimed at a type of ecosystem on Banks Peninsula which is rare and highly threatened.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Alignment with the Councils Biodiversity Strategy and at an ecosystem level would probably meet the criteria as a Significant Ecological Site.
- The restoration project also provides an opportunity for native bird population enhancement in Port Levy.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00009\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Styx Living Laboratory Trust</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b></p> <p>2025/26 - \$7,000 (Pūharakekenui Programme Delivery and Support Officer) CWPF                  2025/25 - \$16,000 (Pūharakekenui Programme Delivery and Support Officer) SCF CW                  2024/25 - \$30,000 (Weed Survey of the Pūharakekenui/ Styx River Catchment) BIO                  2024/25 - \$7,425 (Water Quality Monitoring) CWP                  2024/25 - \$10,000 (Community Resilience and Connection: Free Trees Project &amp; Sustainable Transport) Sus                  2024/25 - \$8,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust Education Work Program Initiative) SCF CBL                  2024/25 - \$8,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust Education Work Programme Initiative) SCF PIC                  2023/24 - \$41,000 (Willow control) BIO                  2023/24 - \$10,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust Education Work Program Initiative) Better OFF FWH                  2023/24 - \$10,750 (The Pūharakekenui Free Trees Project) Sus                  2023/24 - \$2,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust Work Programme Support) SCF CBL                  2023/24 - \$8,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust Work Programme Support) SCF PIC                  2023/24 - \$7,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust Work Programme Support) SCF FWH                  2022/23 - \$10,000 (Styx Living Laboratory Trust) Sus                  2022/23 - \$5,000 (Pūharakekenui Education Project) SCF FWH                  2022/23 - \$8,000 (Pūharakekenui Education Project) SCF PI                  2022/23 - \$2,000 (Pūharakekenui Education Project) SCF CB</p>	<p><b>Pūharakekenui   Styx River Restoration at 188 Radcliffe Road</b></p> <p>Weed control and supplementary planting on a 550 m section of the Pūharakekenui-Styx River on private property, characterised by dense stands of willow. A significant wetland that hosts relatively intact cover of pukio sedge, kiokio fern, and regenerating native plants – including At Risk – Declining climbing nettle (<i>Urtica persconfusa</i>).</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 02/02/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 28/01/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$68,812.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$68,812.00</b> <b>100% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b></p> <p>Plants (MfE and Trees that Count) - \$18,412.00                  Willow control - \$17,370.00                  Pest plant control - \$6,948.00                  Planting rates - \$18,018.00                  Eco-Guards - \$14,700.00                  Follow-up Pest plants - \$22,800.00                  Weed control (24 months) - \$18,528.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on the 188 Radcliffe Road terrace face (11,000 m2) and upstream riparian margin (3000 m2) components of the wider project is currently covered by the Trust from its Ministry for the Environment Freshwater Improvement Fund programme, Project Kōtare. However, this funding finishes in June 2026 and work in the 5000 m2 floodplain wetland is outside of the scope of this MfE funding.</li> <li>• No other funding has been applied for yet, for this particular project, apart from ongoing discussions with MfE regarding possibility of extending their funding period – which is currently unlikely.</li> </ul> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b></p> <p>Consumables \$7,847.00                  Salaries and Wages \$60,965.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$68,812.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$68,812.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Styx Living Laboratory Trust towards Pūharakekenui   Styx River Restoration at 188 Radcliffe Road. Total amount to be paid in 2025/26 to be spent over two years with progress reporting to be provided in January 2027 and January 2028.</p>

2

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- The Trust plan to carry out willow and woody weed eradication (including ivy and old man's beard control ) along the 550 m length of 188 Radcliffe Road Property. This work will involve drilling and poisoning standing trees that will be mulched using a mulching head on a 30T tracked excavator. This work will be limited to the reach of the excavator boom along the terrace, and any trees beyond this reach will be drilled and poisoned and left standing to collapse over time. After the tree work has been completed, The Trust will supply 3900 plants and plant the terrace face (approximately 1.10 ha) and plant 1300 plants along the upstream riparian margin (approximately 3000 m2) and carry out establishment maintenance (see plan below). This work is funded under the Trust's Ministry for the Environment-funded Project Kotare.
- With funding from Councils Biodiversity Fund, the Trust would also like to restore the adjacent 5000 m2 floodplain wetland area as described above - including woody weed & pest plant eradication, establishing 1790 Eco sourced enrichment species and maintaining the site for 24 months.

Outcomes therefore include:

- (1) Eradication of willow and other woody weeds within the site
- (2) Eradication of yellow flag iris and other pest plants
- (3) Expansion of existing indigenous vegetation
- (4) Establishment of 1790 enrichment plants

**Staff Assessment**

The project supports both threatened plant protection and rehabilitation of a threatened habitat which meets the criteria as a Significant Ecological Site. The projects also expands on wider restoration programme the Styx Trust are undertaking in Partnership with the Council.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Strong alignment with the Councils Biodiversity strategy and Funding criteria.
- The applicant has a proven record of delivery and working with others including the landowner and Council.
- Ongoing information and monitoring from the project will assist informing ongoing work and focus within the Styx catchment.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00005\_Bio

## 2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation	2
<p><b>Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b> 2025/26 - \$860 (AED Battery replacement) CDEM 2025/26 - \$5,000 (Kaumātua Wellbeing) SCF BP 2024/25 - \$150,000 (Office, Conference facility and Atea Extension) CEF</p>	<p><b>Hokinga Rāpaki Native Reserve 875</b></p> <p>Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke embody kaitiakitanga by pest plant species eradication, thanks to our Tiaki Taiao team. Monitoring of 444 Governors Bay Road, Māori Native Reserve 1C (Taukahara), &amp; Māori Native Reserve showcased immense pest species threatening indigenous biodiversity within these lands and neighbouring Christchurch City Council land.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 24/11/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 19/11/2029</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$86,160.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$43,080.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> AT220 Traps - \$33,660.00 Traps - \$32,141.00 Tools - \$10,000.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> Community Partnerships Fund</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Salaries and Wages \$37,606.00 Consumables \$4,474.00 Equipment hire \$1,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$43,080.00</b></p> <p>That the Council makes a grant of \$43,080.00 from its 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund to Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc towards Hokinga Rāpaki Native Reserve 875.</p>	

<p><b>Outcomes that will be achieved through this project</b> This project will have positive biodiversity outcomes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removing key invasive pest plant species, namely Old Mans Beard, from studied target zones within the 578.41 ha, aligning with and extending the scope of the extensive Old Mans Beard programme in CCC managed Sugarloaf Reserve.</li> <li>Management of key pest animal species to a sufficiently low numbers, aligning again with the extensive pest animal control programme being carried out in Sugarloaf by the CCC team.</li> <li>A contiguously managed area of land in collaboration with our CCC Sugarloaf neighbours. Aligning and carrying out annual ecological management tasks such as toxin rounds and Old man's beard control so taonga species such as mokomoko (lizards) and manu (birds) can thrive.</li> <li>Support ongoing kaitiakitanga in these private and Māori Reserve lands</li> <li>Engage and employ local hapū bodies in environmental kaitiakitanga</li> </ul> <p>These actions will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An improved habitat for tāonga species (pest and plant)</li> <li>Protected seed whakapapa and seed source unique to Port Hills Whakaraupō</li> <li>Safeguarded future decision making aligned with ecological and cultural values unique to Port Hills Whakaraupō</li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Assessment</b></p> <p>The application is part of a long-term project forming a biodiversity corridor of ecological and cultural significance. Indigenous biodiversity threatened by pest plants and animals will be restored, enhancing habitat connectivity with neighbouring reserves and wider restoration projects including adjacent Council reserve work and Whaka-Ora Healthy harbour programme.</p> <p><b>Rationale for staff recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project provides multiple benefits which align with funding criteria and the Councils Biodiversity Strategy.</li> <li>Site specific values are part of a wider mosaic within Lyttelton Harbour which has been identified as a priority site for biodiversity protection projects.</li> <li>Cultural connection and alignment building practical capability and capacity benefiting both Ngati Wheke and the wider community.</li> </ul>
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Request Number: 2025/26\_00004\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Living Springs Trust</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Living Springs Weed control</b></p> <p>Living Springs is seeking funding to employ a full time Weed Control Specialist to lead and implement a weed management programme across our 400-hectare property in Whakaraupō / Lyttelton Harbour. This work will protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity, forming part of a 1,130-hectare predator and pest managed landscape.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 02/03/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 31/03/2027</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$654,429.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$74,304.00</b> <b>11.354% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> ACVE Volunteers (5 volunteers @ 30 hrs a week for 44 weeks = 6600 hours - \$191,070.00 Trapping Volunteers (15 volunteers @ 5 hours a month x 12 months - \$26,055.00)</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> Living Springs has applied to several complementary funding sources to support our wider biodiversity and restoration work at Whakaraupō. These include:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterways Fund: Applied for eDNA kits to monitor aquatic health and biodiversity within our catchment.</li> <li>• Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund: Applied for materials for both predator control and weed control to enhance native habitat restoration.</li> <li>• Tourism Industry New Zealand Trust (TINZT): Applied for materials to support track construction and maintenance to improve access for conservation and education activities.</li> <li>• Meridian Energy Decarbonisation Fund: Applied for tools to support environmental fieldwork and reduce emissions from manual operations.</li> <li>• Stout Trust: Applied for materials to assist with habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement.</li> <li>• Lottery Community Fund: Applied for wages for the Volunteer Coordinator who supports the large volunteer network engaged in planting, weeding, and track work.</li> </ul> </p> <p>Living Springs takes care not to duplicate funding requests. Each application is targeted to a specific and distinct aspect of our environmental work to ensure that every contribution directly advances a different component of the overall restoration effort.</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Salaries and Wages \$70,000.00 Consumables \$4,304.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$0</b></p> <p>That the Council declines the application to the 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund from Living Springs Trust for Living Springs Weed control.</p>

4

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**  
The project will deliver measurable biodiversity gains at Living Springs by reducing the extent and impact of invasive weeds and improving conditions for native forest regeneration.

- Key outcomes include:
- Enhanced indigenous biodiversity: Systematic control of priority weeds such as Old Man's Beard, Boneseed, Wilding Pine, Ivy and Himalayan Honeysuckle will protect and strengthen native ecosystems, allowing natural regeneration and the survival of more than 70,000 planted native trees.
  - Improved ecological resilience: Reducing invasive weed pressure will support the restoration of diverse native plant communities, stabilise soils, reduce erosion, and enhance habitat for taonga species and other native fauna.
  - Increased community capability: Training and coordinating volunteers and community partners will build local knowledge and capacity for ongoing biodiversity protection. The role will also strengthen collaboration with Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Christchurch City Council and other organisations involved in the wider Whakaraupō restoration network.
  - Improved monitoring and reporting: Weed management activities will be mapped using GIS technology and summarised in regular reports to measure progress and guide future actions.

Together these outcomes will create a more self-sustaining, weed resilient ecosystem that contributes to the long-term biodiversity goals for Whakaraupō and the wider Banks Peninsula landscape.

**Staff Assessment**

The application is to fund a full-time employee Weed Specialist who will prepare and implement a weed management programme. Council has previously indicated to the applicant in the two previous Biodiversity funding rounds that funding such positions is inappropriate and does not meet funding criteria. While the Living Springs site and adjacent areas do contain some significant values and large community engagement programmes, applications to this fund would be more appropriate for on the ground weed and pest control projects. Council has provided funding for such projects previously.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Funding an employment position does not meet Biodiversity Fund criteria. Projects which are identified through the weed management programme this position creates may be appropriate to apply to the Fund in the future.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00008\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Macbeth and Dann Farm Partnership</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Macbeth and Dann Waterway and Wetland Restoration Project</b></p> <p>The joint application seeks support to undertake a coordinated wetland and waterway restoration project, including springs, across 2 properties adjacent to Te Kuru wetlands. The long-term goal is to retire the northern paddocks to create and restore wetlands and native habitat, improving indigenous biodiversity, stormwater resilience, and climate adaptation outcomes.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 30/11/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 30/09/2027</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$60,000.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$30,000.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Equipment/permanent materials purchase \$0.00 Contractors \$30,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$0</b></p> <p>That the Council declines the application to the 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund from Macbeth and Dann Farm Partnership for Macbeth and Dann Waterway and Wetland Restoration Project.</p>

4

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

Ecological and Biodiversity Outcomes:

- Restoration of ~2 hectares of new wetland habitat
- Increase in native plant and invertebrate diversity
- Improved habitat connectivity between Te Kuru Wetlands and foothill ecosystems

Climate and Sustainability Outcomes:

- Improved stormwater retention and flood mitigation
- Carbon sequestration through native planting
- Demonstration of nature-based solutions aligned with CCC's Climate Resilience Strategy

**Staff Assessment**

The sites identified are of limited ecological value, are not Sites of Significance and the proposed works will not necessarily result in any biodiversity gains. The proposed project focuses on several different outcomes including demonstrating climate resilience and waterway restoration. Given the overall context, combined with the lack of any format Trust, Company or oversight entity the application does not meet the criteria for the biodiversity fund. If appropriate, the applicant could apply to the Councils Waterways Partnership Fund.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Some minimal alignment with the Councils Biodiversity Strategy but does not meet the Biodiversity Fund criteria.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00016\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p>Reagan Knapp</p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement</b></p> <p>The 'Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement' project builds upon a soil enhancement focus to provide suitable native planting sub straight. Focus is on replanting natives within fenced, previously grazed areas to attract birds. The project also includes and removal of pine trees.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 03/11/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 03/11/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$274,140.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$57,841.00</b> <b>21.099% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project manager (landowner) - Part-time (10 hours/month for 3-year duration) - \$10,442.00</li> <li>• Watering labour (Landowner / volunteer) - Based on 2 mins/plant average (bay line - slow feed, landowner/volunteer); 3000 plants * 2 min/plant; assume 1 round of watering = 250 hours; 1/week for 1st year; 1/2 week for 2nd year; 1/month for 3rd year - \$102,960.00</li> <li>• Planting labour (landowner / volunteer) - Based on 0.5 hour/plant average (volunteer) - \$10,856.00</li> <li>• Felled trees for raised planting areas - otherwise would be firewood - \$3,000.00</li> <li>• Weeding labour (hourly Part-time (10 hours/week for 3-year duration) - land owner/volunteer) - \$31,200.00</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> None yet. We have funded all project personally.</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b></p> <p>Contractors \$10,918.00 Consumables \$19,465.00 Contractors \$8,750.00 Salaries and Wages \$5,428.00 Contractors \$13,280.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$0</b></p> <p>That the Council declines the application to the 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund from Reagan Knapp for Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement.</p>

4

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- Establishment of native planting / wildlife corridors in current/former sheep paddocks, encouraging native bird and aquatic life. All plants will be eco-sourced / from either Bayview Botanicals (Okains Bay-based nursery) or Living Streams nursery (Little River). Contractors selected are local to Okains Bay or at least to the Peninsula if they are not available.
- Soil establishment and erosion control contributing to regenerating native forest and nutrient capture. We have watched the changing of the land over the years since 2017, and once we started isolating our small flock of sheep to certain paddocks, the native plants that mainly have self-seeded are flourishing. We transplant and/or plant natives when and where needed and have begun fencing off areas to keep the stock away. The various bunds we wish to create along the Opara stream boundary will help with erosion control, as the high/king tides have a tendency to wash over the paper road and are likely to kill plants not planted with a height and added substrate advantage. The proof is in the pudding with natives planted in bunds/raised areas vs in situ, and we plan to continue with this model to promote healthier, happier native planting groupings.
- Proving that re-establishing native forests is achievable, sustainable and beautiful, in hopes that other landowners along the Opara Stream will follow suit. Originally this application was going to be the backbone of a larger Okains Bay project. After discussions with others along the stream, this is not the ideal time for their projects, so we have decided to embark on this project first and have indicated others are welcome to use our model if they wish to in the future.

**Staff Assessment**

The site where planting is proposed is of low ecological priority and does not appear to contain any sites of significance. Replanting sites with little to no inherent biodiversity values is not a priority for funding.

In addition, there is no clear Management Plan in place other than identification of some planting sites and possible species.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- The proposed project meets few outcomes of the Councils Biodiversity Strategy and no Biodiversity Fund criteria.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00001\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p>Reagan Knapp</p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Opapa Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement - site 2</b></p> <p>Okains Bay property with areas that could benefit from clearing macrocarpas adjacent to the river and establishing a bund similar to the other proposal applied for. This proposal is a starting point for a much larger vision by building a bund that we will then plant with natives.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 03/11/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 03/11/2028</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$13,920.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$6,960.00</b> <b>50% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Nil</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> None other than Bio-001; main application.</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Contractors \$2,030.00 Contractors \$3,180.00 Contractors \$1,750.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$0</b></p> <p>That the Council declines the application to the 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund from Reagan Knapp for Opapa Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement - site 2.</p>

4

<p><b>Outcomes that will be achieved through this project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning up the macrocarpa area to allow natives to begin to establish themselves. The contractor is Peninsula-based.</li> <li>• Soil establishment and erosion control in the form of a bund, which we intend to plant in natives in the near future.</li> <li>• Proving that re-establishing native forests is achievable, sustainable and beautiful, in hopes that other landowners along the Opapa Stream will follow suit. Refer to main application Bio-001.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Staff Assessment</b></p> <p>The proposal is not within a Site of Ecological significance, has no clear biodiversity Outcomes or monitoring and no Governance or management structure in place. The application at face value appears to be for general farm activity and does not meet Biodiversity Fund criteria.</p> <p><b>Rationale for staff recommendation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application does not align with the Councils Biodiversity strategy and does not meet the criteria for the Biodiversity Fund.</li> </ul>
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Request Number: 2025/26\_00018\_Bio

2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation
<p><b>Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust</b></p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Whakaora Hoon Hay Valley Project</b></p> <p>Plant 5,000 indigenous trees and shrubs along Kennedy's Bush Walking Track. The project aims to: Establish fire-resistant, biodiverse native planting that enhances ecological resilience in a high fire-risk area. Provide a practical demonstration site on how appropriate species selection and design can reduce fire risk while supporting native biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 06/04/2026 <b>End Date:</b> 02/11/2026</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$81,546.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$40,000.00</b> <b>49.052% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Volunteer Hours (60 volunteers x3 hours per volunteer = 180 hours x \$28.95 per hour living wage equivalent - \$5,211.00 TAK nursery discount code 20% - \$4,450.00 Grant Campbell (FENZ) volunteer advice &amp; site visit 12 hours @ \$50 per hour - \$600.00 TAK Trustee time overseeing project 100 hours @ \$50 per hour - \$5,000.00 Use of TAK equipment (see attached budget for details). - \$6,702.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> Te Ara Kākāriki relies on annual funding from several sources to carry out the work that it does in the community. Funding sources include Selwyn District Council, Environment Canterbury and Central Plains Water. Most of this funding is project specific and so only funding received from the CCC Biodiversity Fund will be used for this specific project.</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> \$40,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$0</b></p> <p>That the Council declines the application to the 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund from Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust for Whakaora Hoon Hay Valley Project.</p>

4

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

Outputs:

- Plant 5,000 indigenous trees and shrubs across one hectare of the McGrath property in Hoon Hay Valley with support from our restoration team and volunteers.
- Maintain the site through hand weeding and selective spraying to prevent the re-establishment of gorse and long grass, ensuring strong early growth and plant survival.
- Engage at least 60 volunteers in native restoration activities, providing hands-on learning about appropriate native planting in fire-prone environments.

Impacts - Environmental:

- This project will contribute one hectare and 5,000 additional indigenous plants toward Christchurch City Council's goal of achieving 40% canopy cover across non-urban Christchurch and Banks Peninsula (currently around 10%). The planting will create valuable habitat for native wildlife, acting as a "stepping stone" that connects other indigenous areas. Over time, as the forest matures, we expect to see increased presence of native species such as tūi and korimako/bellbird. Once established, the site will become self-sustaining—suppressing exotic weeds naturally and providing seed sources for further regeneration.

A halo effect:

- The McGrath farm covers 400 hectares, with long-term plans to integrate both farming and native vegetation. This project is their first moderate-sized native planting and will act as a pilot for future restoration efforts. By demonstrating a successful approach to fire-resistant, ecologically valuable planting, it is expected to inspire neighbouring landowners to adopt similar strategies across the Port Hills.

People and community:

- At planting events, participants will learn about ecosystem connections and fire-resistant species from our ecologist and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. By contributing directly to a project they can revisit, volunteers will build a sense of ownership and connection to the area. The planting, located beside the popular Kennedy's Bush Track, will enhance the recreational experience by adding shelter and visual appeal while serving as an accessible demonstration of fire-smart, biodiversity-focused restoration.

**Staff Assessment**

The application is not in an area of Ecological Significance and there are very few remaining biodiversity values in the Kennedys Bush Walking Track area, making it a low priority area for investment. The main purpose of the project is on showcasing fire-resistant native plantings which would seem to be the type of project which may fit more with the criteria in the Councils Sustainability Fund.

Planting projects are inherently high cost/high input projects when compared to working on sites with existing values.

**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Low alignment with Councils Biodiversity Strategy and does not meet key criteria of the Biodiversity Fund (not in and SES and minimal to no biodiversity gains from the project). Overall, this is a high cost/low benefit proposal.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00003\_Bio

### 2025/26 BIODIVERSITY FUND DECISION MATRIX

Organisation Name	Project	Request Budget	Recommendation	
<p>Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc</p> <p><b>Funding History</b> Nil</p>	<p><b>Whakamahere a Ngāti Wheke</b></p> <p>Whakamahere a Ngāti Wheke aims to enable proper ecological and cultural assessments on 444 Governors Bay Road, which was formally apart of the Native Reserve Block 875.</p> <p>The work needed for this project is to employ a Cultural Advisor to prepare a Cultural Assessment to support future decision making.</p> <p><b>Start Date:</b> 17/11/2025 <b>End Date:</b> 12/06/2026</p>	<p><b>Total Cost: \$104,000.00</b> <b>Total Requested: \$35,000.00</b> <b>33.654% requested</b></p> <p><b>In Kind Contributions</b> Labour - \$6,000.00 Use of equipment - \$3,000.00 Volunteer time - \$25,000.00</p> <p><b>Other Sources of Funding</b> NA</p> <p><b>Contribution Sought Towards:</b> Salaries and Wages \$35,000.00</p>	<p><b>Total Recommended: \$0</b></p> <p>That the Council declines the application to the 2025/26 Biodiversity Fund from Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc for Whakamahere a Ngāti Wheke.</p>	<h1>4</h1>

**Outcomes that will be achieved through this project**

- Expected Outcomes:
- Enhanced habitat for native birds, insects, tāonga species (plant and animal)
  - Strengthened hapū-led environmental kaitiakitanga and planning
  - Baseline ecological data to inform long-term kaitiakitanga
  - Deliver on protection of enhanced biodiversity on public and private land
  - Enabling the role of kaitiakitanga for manawhenua
  - Enhancing community awareness, engagement and action for biodiversity

**Staff Assessment**

The application is primarily to create a position which would focus on preparing a Cultural Management Plan for the newly acquired site in Governors Bay.

The outcome of the proposal will create a Cultural Management Plan which may identify Significant value sites and actions to manage those sites. The actions identified in the Plan may be appropriate for applications to be made to the Biodiversity Fund however funding a Position and the creation of a Plan will not in itself result in protection of any sites of significance and therefore does not meet funding criteria.

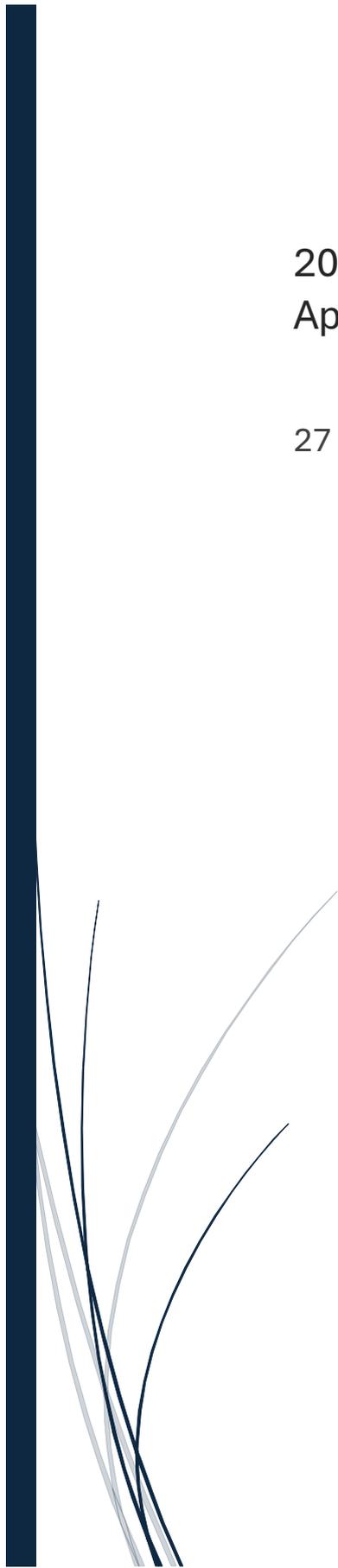
**Rationale for staff recommendation:**

- Aligns with some of the Councils Biodiversity Strategy regarding working with and supporting Ngai Tahu but does not meet Biodiversity Fund criteria.

Request Number: 2025/26\_00007\_Bio

# 2025-2026 Biodiversity Fund Applications - Summary

27 January 2026



Wright, Carrie  
CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

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## 2025-2026 Biodiversity Fund Applications –Summary

Seventeen applications were received for consideration under the Christchurch City Council Biodiversity Fund, collectively requesting approximately \$674,000. Applicants included mana whenua organisations, community groups, conservation trusts, volunteer organisations, and private landowners, reflecting strong district-wide engagement in biodiversity protection.

The proposed projects encompassed weed and pest control, native habitat restoration, wetland and waterway enhancement, coastal restoration, fish passage improvements, and ecological and cultural planning. Many projects occurred within or adjacent to reserves, covenant land, and other ecologically significant landscapes.

Applications were assessed against the Fund’s objectives, prioritising projects that deliver direct on-the-ground biodiversity outcomes, protect or enhance high-value indigenous ecosystems, and provide long-term security of ecological values, including formal protection.

Several applications were declined or partially approved where alignment with the Fund’s purpose was limited, including projects with low inherent ecological values, no formal protection, or primarily staffing, planning, or amenity-focused activities. Some of those applicants will be advised to consider alternative Council funding streams such as the Sustainability Fund or Three Waters initiatives where appropriate.

One project, Sea Frontage and Fish Passage Restoration (Orton Bradley Park Board), was partially approved, with funding recommended solely for the possum trapping component that directly supports biodiversity protection. Other components were outside the Fund’s primary scope.

The assessment process ensured that Biodiversity Fund resources are directed toward projects providing the greatest and most enduring benefits for indigenous biodiversity, while maintaining transparency, consistency, and alignment with Council priorities.

Each application is summarised below.





*Figure 1: invading pigs ear (in foreground)*

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## Weed Control – Kōwhai Bush and Te Ara Pātiki Covenants

**Applicant:** Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

**Amount requested:** \$20,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Three native forest covenants supporting river health and biodiversity. Contractor-led knockback program targets old man's beard, blackberry, and other invasive weeds. Community engagement ensures long-term ecological outcomes.

**Alignment with criteria:** Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.



Cotoneaster (left), Chilean flame creeper (top right) and old man's beard (Bottom right) are established and need quite a lot of work to keep in check. Photos Geoff Walls

## Mt Evans Spur Valerian and Pigs Ear Control

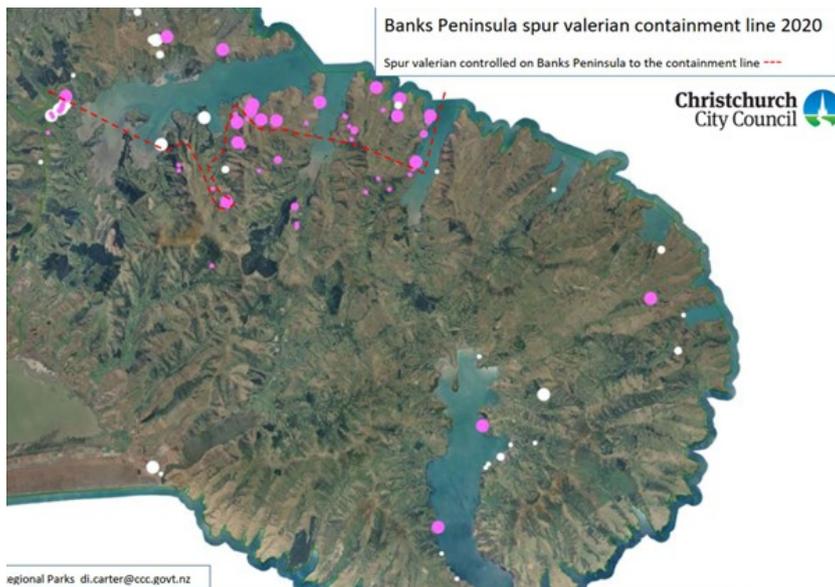
**Applicant:** Eco Abseil Ltd

**Amount requested:** \$74,988.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Protects one of the Peninsula's largest dry bluff-land ecosystems, nationally rare, supporting multiple threatened taxa. Specialist access required to control spur valerian and pigs ear weeds, enhancing native plant recovery and long-term habitat protection.

**Alignment with criteria:** Full – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.





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### Ōhinetahi and Linda Woods Reserves Biodiversity Project

**Applicant:** The Summit Road Society

**Amount requested:** \$51,745.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Rare volcanic bluff habitats and threatened native flora, including Peninsula endemics and threatened and at-risk species. Restoration targets invasive weeds and pests to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience.

**Alignment with criteria:** Full – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised threats, proven track record.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.

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### Whaka-Ora Pest Project

**Applicant:** Conservation Volunteers New Zealand

**Amount requested:** \$15,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Manages 400 ha of CCC and DOC reserves and 43 ha of private land, linking reserves and covenanted areas. Targets possums, rats, and mustelids; fosters ecological connectivity, community engagement, and knowledge-building for pest and weed management.

**Alignment with criteria:** Moderate – mixed ecological values, some protected private land.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.



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### Manaia Native Habitat SES

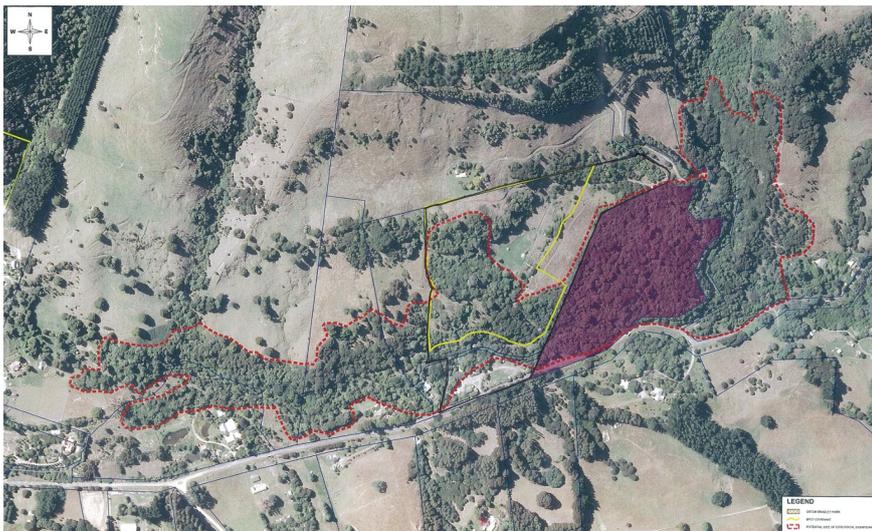
**Applicant:** Little River Campground Ltd

**Amount requested:** \$4,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Banks Peninsula covenant targeting invasive sycamore, elderberry, and blackberry. Track maintenance ensures safe access for pest control and long-term habitat recovery, while providing a public demonstration of restoration success.

**Alignment with criteria:** Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.



## Kaituna Community Weeding

**Applicant:** Marie Neal

**Amount requested:** \$60,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Upper Kaituna Valley catchment with significant native biodiversity. Community-led invasive weed control protects native bush, riverside vegetation, and aquatic fauna. Program complements adjacent covenants and aims for catchment-wide ecological benefit.

**Alignment with criteria:** Good – high ecological values, coordinated catchment approach.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full



## Sea Frontage and Fish Passage Restoration

**Applicant:** Orton Bradley Park Board

**Amount requested:** \$53,475.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Three-part project: (1) stage two sea frontage restoration for nesting birds and coastal vegetation; (2) culvert replacement on Te Wharau Stream to restore fish passage; (3) installation of AT220 possum traps with operational maintenance for vegetation protection.

**Alignment with criteria:** Partial – only possum trapping aligns with biodiversity protection criteria.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve funding for possum traps only -\$8475.

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## Owhetoro Forest Restoration

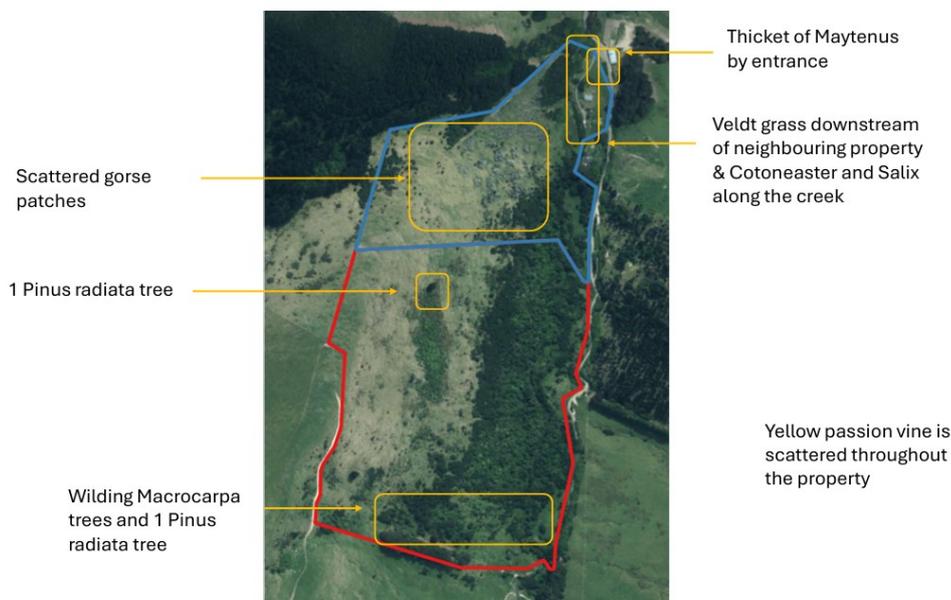
**Applicant:** Pikiraki Limited

**Amount requested:** \$25,272.00

**Summary of ecological values:** 30 ha across Owhetoro Stream, including secondary and regenerating forest, wetlands, seeps, bluff line, and pasture. Restoration focuses on weed control, some restoration planting.

**Alignment with criteria:** Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.



## Pūharakekenui | Styx River Restoration at 188 Radcliffe Road

**Applicant:** Styx Living Laboratory Trust

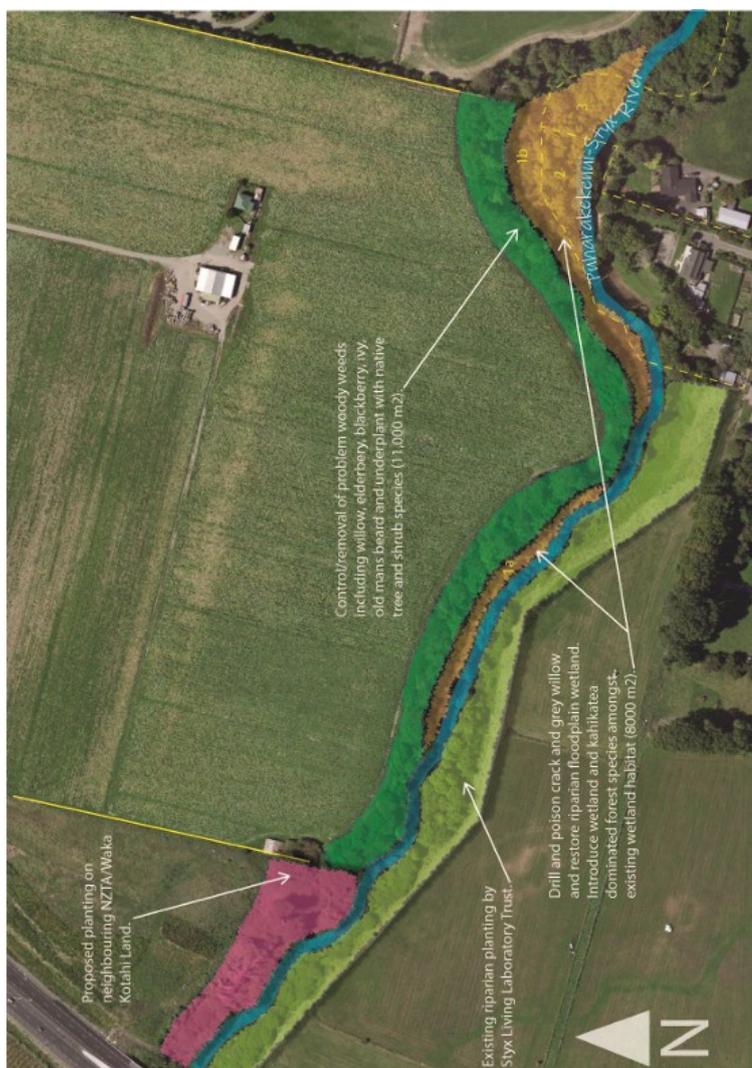
**Amount requested:** \$68,812.00

**Summary of ecological values:** 550 m section of floodplain supporting regenerating native vegetation, including At Risk species, despite exotic willow infestations. Restoration enhances floodplain wetland habitat, supports threatened species, and strengthens an important ecological corridor.

**Alignment with criteria:** Good – high ecological values, protected private land, proven delivery record.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.





### Hokinga Rāpaki Native Reserve 875

**Applicant:** Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc

**Amount requested:** \$43,080.00

**Summary of ecological values:** 578.41 ha across Māori Native Reserves and adjoining lands forming a biodiversity corridor of ecological and cultural significance. Indigenous biodiversity threatened by pest plants and animals will be restored, enhancing habitat connectivity with neighbouring reserves.

**Alignment with criteria:** Good: high ecological values, protected private land, recognised pest threat.

**Panel recommendation:** Approve in full.



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### Living Springs Weed Control

**Applicant:** Living Springs Trust

**Amount requested:** \$74,304.00

**Summary of ecological values:** 400ha restoration site within a 1,130ha predator-managed landscape. Funding supports a Weed Control Specialist to implement invasive plant control and volunteer coordination.

**Alignment with criteria:** Poor – partial: indirect to fund’s primary function; primarily staff funding for a private business.

**Panel recommendation:** Decline

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### Macbeth and Dann Waterway and Wetland Restoration Project

**Applicant:** Macbeth and Dann Farm Partnership

**Amount requested:** \$30,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Two adjoining properties (~9 ha) bordering Te Kuru Wetlands. Project restores native riparian vegetation and enhances ecological connectivity.

**Alignment with criteria:** Poor – partial: better aligned to Sustainability Fund or 3 Waters projects.

**Panel recommendation:** Decline

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### Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement

**Applicant:** Reagan Knapp

**Amount requested:** \$57,841.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Since 2017, bare sheep paddocks along the Opara Stream have been transformed into a biodiverse landscape. This project will remove aging pines,

create raised planting areas, and expand native vegetation to support birds, flora, and fauna, building on years of dedicated ecological restoration.

**Alignment with criteria:** Partial – poor: limited natural ecological values, no formal protection, and unclear ecological integrity.

**Panel recommendation:** Decline

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### Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement – Site 2

**Applicant:** Reagan Knapp

**Amount requested:** \$6,960.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Managing a macrocarpa stand along the riverfront at 25 Chorlton Road; stabilising banks, clearing understory, and establishing native vegetation.

**Alignment with criteria:** Poor – limited ecological values on non-protected land.

**Panel recommendation:** Decline

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### Whakaora Hoon Hay Valley Project

**Applicant:** Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust

**Amount requested:** \$40,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Planting 5,000 indigenous trees and shrubs along Kennedy's Bush Walking Track to create a fire-resistant, biodiverse native forest, enhancing habitat connectivity for birds, lizards, and insects. The project integrates community engagement, ecological restoration, and fire-smart planting as a demonstration for local landowners.

**Alignment with criteria:** Partial – Poor: low inherent ecological values, no formal protection.

**Panel recommendation:** Decline; recommend applying to Sustainability Fund.

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### Whakamahere a Ngāti Wheke

**Applicant:** Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc

**Amount requested:** \$35,000.00

**Summary of ecological values:** Ecological and cultural assessments of 444 Governors Bay Road to guide management and support restoration and protection of native biodiversity.

**Alignment with criteria:** Poor – partial: no direct ecological sites; primarily cultural assessment.

**Panel recommendation:** Decline

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Table of applications

Applicant	Project Name	Amount Requested	Summary of Ecological Values	Alignment with Criteria	Panel Recommendation
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust	Pig's Ear Weed Control – Le Bons Bay Conservation Trust Covenant	\$20,000.00	40 ha native forest covenant providing critical habitat for endemic and rare species. Three-year pig's ear knockback program and volunteer engagement protect biodiversity.	Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat	Approve in full
Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust	Weed Control – Kōwhai Bush and Te Ara Pātiki Covenants	\$20,000.00	Three covenants supporting river health and biodiversity. Contractor-led knockback program targets invasive weeds. Community engagement ensures long-term ecological outcomes.	Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat	Approve in full
Eco Abseil Ltd	Mt Evans Spur Valerian and Pigs Ear Control	\$74,988.00	Protects one of the Peninsula's largest dry bluff-land ecosystems, supporting multiple threatened taxa. Specialist access required to control Spur valerian and Pigs ear weeds, enhancing native plant recovery and long-term habitat protection.	Full – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat	Approve in full
The Summit Road Society	Ōhinetahi and Linda Woods Reserves Biodiversity Project	\$51,745.00	Rare volcanic bluff habitats and threatened native flora, including Peninsula endemics and critically endangered species.	Full – high ecological values, protected private land,	Approve in full

Table of applications

Applicant	Project Name	Amount Requested	Summary of Ecological Values	Alignment with Criteria	Panel Recommendation
Conservation Volunteers New Zealand	Whaka-Ora Pest Project	\$15,000.00	Restoration targets invasive weeds and pests to enhance biodiversity.  Manages 400 ha of CCC and DOC reserves and 43 ha of private land, linking reserves and covenanted areas. Targets possums, rats, and mustelids; fosters connectivity, community engagement, and knowledge-building.	recognised threats, proven track record  Moderate – mixed ecological values, some protected private land	Approve in full
Little River Campground Ltd	Manaia Native Habitat SES	\$4,000.00	Covenant targeting invasive sycamore, elderberry, and blackberry. Track maintenance ensures safe access for pest control and long-term habitat recovery, demonstrating restoration success publicly.	Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat	Approve in full
Marie Neal	Kaituna Community Weeding	\$60,000.00	Upper Kaituna Valley catchment with significant native biodiversity. Community-led invasive weed control protects native bush, riverside vegetation, and aquatic fauna.	Good – high ecological values, coordinated catchment approach	Approve in full

Table of applications

Applicant	Project Name	Amount Requested	Summary of Ecological Values	Alignment with Criteria	Panel Recommendation
Orton Bradley Park Board	Sea Frontage and Fish Passage Restoration	\$53,475.00	Three-part project: (1) stage two sea frontage restoration for birds and coastal vegetation; (2) culvert replacement in Te Wharau Stream; (3) AT220 possum traps installation with operational maintenance.	Partial – only possum traps align with biodiversity protection criteria	Approve \$8475 funding for possum traps only
Pikiraki Limited	Owhetoro Forest Restoration	\$25,272.00	30 ha across Owhetoro Stream including secondary and regenerating forest, wetlands, seeps, bluff line, and pasture. Restoration focuses on weed control, rare tree planting, and seedling protection.	Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised weed threat	Approve in full
Styx Living Laboratory Trust	Pūharakekenui   Styx River Restoration at 188 Radcliffe Road	\$68,812.00	550 m floodplain supporting regenerating native vegetation, including At Risk species, despite exotic willow infestations. Restoration enhances floodplain habitat and ecological corridor.	Good – high ecological values, protected private land, proven delivery record	Approve in full
Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc	Hokinga Rāpaki Native Reserve 875	\$43,080.00	578.41 ha across Māori Native Reserves forming a biodiversity corridor of ecological and cultural significance. Restoration targets pest plants and animals to enhance	Good – high ecological values, protected private land, recognised pest threat	Approve in full

Table of applications

Applicant	Project Name	Amount Requested	Summary of Ecological Values	Alignment with Criteria	Panel Recommendation
Living Springs Trust	Living Springs Weed Control	\$74,304.00	habitat connectivity with neighbouring reserves.  400 ha restoration site within 1,130 ha predator-managed landscape. Funding supports a Weed Control Specialist for invasive plant control and volunteer coordination.	Poor – indirect to fund’s primary function; primarily staff funding	Decline
Macbeth and Dann Farm Partnership	Macbeth and Dann Waterway and Wetland Restoration Project	\$30,000.00	Two properties (~9 ha) bordering Te Kuru Wetlands. Project restores hydrology, enhances connectivity, and honors kaitiakitanga.	Poor – better aligned to Sustainability Fund or 3 Waters projects	Decline
Reagan Knapp	Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement	\$57,841.00	Since 2017, bare sheep paddocks along the Opara Stream have been transformed into a biodiverse landscape. This project will remove aging pines, create raised planting areas, and expand native vegetation to support birds, flora, and fauna.	Poor – limited natural ecological values, no formal protection, unclear ecological integrity	Decline

Table of applications

Applicant	Project Name	Amount Requested	Summary of Ecological Values	Alignment with Criteria	Panel Recommendation
Reagan Knapp	Opara Riverside Biodiversity Enhancement – Site 2	\$6,960.00	Managing macrocarpa stand at 25 Chorlton Road; stabilising banks, clearing understory, and establishing native vegetation.	Poor – limited ecological values	Decline
Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust	Whakaora Hoon Hay Valley Project	\$40,000.00	Planting 5,000 indigenous trees and shrubs along Kennedy’s Bush Walking Track to create a fire-resistant, biodiverse native forest, enhancing habitat connectivity and community engagement.	Poor – low inherent ecological values, no formal protection	Decline; recommend Sustainability Fund
Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Inc	Whakamahere a Ngāti Wheke	\$35,000.00	Ecological and cultural assessments of 444 Governors Bay Road to guide management and support restoration and protection of native biodiversity.	Poor – no direct ecological sites; primarily cultural assessment	Decline

