

SOUTH Waikato ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

South Waikato Environmental Initiatives (SWEI) is again asking for applications to provide funding to assist you with the cost of fencing and planting of native trees.

We are an independent group of mostly local farmers, administering funds from Oji Fibre Solutions. The South Waikato District Council kindly assists with the administration.

Applying is simple. Just write a short letter to the address listed below with your contact details, including name, postal address, farm location and phone number (preferably landline and cell phone). We also need a short description of your project, eg, length of fencing required, length of stream bank that requires planting, area of wetland to be restored.

You can also apply using the application form on the Council's website. Head to www.southwaikato.govt.nz, click on 'Our Council' then select 'Grants and Funding'. Here you will see the SWEI page.

Applications close on 11 February each year, however we urge you to make contact as soon as possible so that if necessary we can have a look at your proposal before the next committee meeting.

Our grant provides for \$2 per metre for a four-wire (two electric) fence. Trees are subsidised at \$3.50 per tree, and planting and post-planting care is your responsibility.

We always have more applications than we have funding for. Therefore, in some cases (with your permission) we may apply through additional funding sources.

If your property is in the Waikato River catchment then Council could assist you in completing an application to the Waikato River Authority for additional funding.

Additional funding is also available to landowners who have Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) located on their property. Please contact Jason Nairn at the Tokoroa Council Office (details below).

Help with fencing and trees

We have made remarkable progress locally over the last few years in erecting fences to keep stock out of waterways and to protect wetlands and bush. The South Waikato can feel very proud.

Many kilometres of stream-side fencing have been erected, and thousands of native trees planted to protect the banks and improve water quality.

Lessons learnt

We have learnt to keep the fence well back from the water's edge. This takes floods into account and provides ground space to capture nutrients running off the paddocks.

Another lesson is to manage weeds early on, before they take hold - particularly important for blackberry.

A third lesson is the importance of fencing those wet boggy areas, small springs and seepages that are quite common in our district. They rarely give quality grazing and, if fenced, act as excellent nutrient and sediment traps.

Who has been helped so far?

Around 300 projects have been funded since 1997. In 2019, 28 projects were funded, at a total value of over \$58,000.

WE CAN ONLY FUND IF YOU APPLY SO WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON.

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CLEAN STREAMS



FOR A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Jason Nairn (SWDC)	Peter Wayne

FOR A BETTER SOCIETY