



BETTER OFF FUNDING

Application Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

Ngā wai e toru – Ko te Tahua Pūtea Wawata ā-Hapori he haumitanga nā te Karauna mō te āpōpō mā ngā kāwanatanga ā-kāinga me te oranga o te hapori, ka mutu koia hei tāpae i te hiranga ki te rāngai kāwanatanga ā-kāinga (me te hapori ka tuaritua e rātou) o te tuku i te takohanga ki te taha tiaki wai.

Ko te whakamahinga o tēnei tahua pūtea hei tautoko i te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato i tō rātou whakahoutanga kia tutuki i ētehi, i te katoa rānei o ngā paearu e whai ake nei, ka mutu, kua whakaraupapahia o roto i te Whakāetanga ā ngā Upoko mā te taunaki i ngā hapori kia whakawhiti atu ki te ohanga toitū me te ohanga tukuwaro-iti hoki, kia matāra anō hoki ki te āhuarangī hurihuri me ngā mōrearea nui.

Ka taunakihia anōtia tēnei tahua pūtea i te whakaherenga tūāhanga me ngā ratonga e whakāe ana i te whakatūnga whare me te whakatupu, ka mutu, e aro tahi ana ki ngā wāhi kua roa nei e tū tahanga ana me ngā wāhi hoki kāore anō kia whakamahia.

Ko ngā whakahaerenga tūāhanga me ngā ratonga e hāpai ana me te whakapiki i te oranga o te hapori.

Ko ngā paearu o te tahua pūtea kua whakaritea e te Tari Taiwhenua mō ngā wai e toru- Te Tahua Pūtea Wawata ā-Hapori e whakāe ana ki tētehi kāhui whiriwhiri o roto i te Kaunihera ā Takiwā o Waikato ki te whakataungia he ara tonu ā-pūtea.

Ko ngā rautaki me ngā tuhinga a te Kaunihera me te Iwi e hāngai ana ki nga paearu tahua pūtea, mā ēnei pea e whakatau i ngā kaupapa ka tohua, tae rā anō ki te whakaterenga, ki te whakanui me te whakakaha rānei i ngā kaupapa.

Ka mutu, hei āwhina i te kāhui whiriwhiri ki te tohu me te whakarite i ngā tonu ka tirohia, kei ā rātou hoki te tikanga mēnā ka aronui atu ki te momo o te kaupapa ka tohua kia hāngai atu ki ngā hiahia o te hapori me ngā wawata o ngā whānau, ngā hapū me ngā iwi.

INTRODUCTION

The Better Off Funding (BOF) is an investment by the Crown into the future for local government and community well-being; and in recognition of the significance to the local government sector (and the communities they serve).

The use of this fund supports Waikato District Council (WDC) to transition to their new role, post-reform, through meeting some or all of the criteria, as laid out in the Heads of Agreement.

The fund aims to support communities to transition to a sustainable and low emissions economy, including resilience to climate change and natural hazards.

This fund also supports the delivery of infrastructure and/or services that enable housing development, commercial development, revitalization of developed land, or growth on undeveloped land.

The funding criteria set by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for Better Off Funding provides flexibility for an WDC to identify a potentially wide range of funding proposals, which is why we are bringing the conversation to our people.

Where Council and Iwi have existing strategic plans and documentation that meet the funding criteria, these may inform project selection, including proposals to accelerate, scale up or enhance current and planned initiatives.

Furthermore, to assist in identifying and prioritising applications, the Assessment Panel have chosen to assign a selection methodology to these prioritisation factors based on WDC's vision of "liveable, thriving, and connected communities," the needs of the community, and the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi.

USING THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been developed as an application guideline for the purpose of the Better Off Funding available under the Three Waters Reform programme.

Please utilise these guidelines when completing the application form for each project. An application form will need to be completed for each separate project seeking funding support. The Better Off Funding applications close on 19 August 2022.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

The Government has developed a package of \$2.5 billion to support New Zealand local councils through transition to the new water services delivery system, and to position Councils for the future.

Additionally, the funding is designed to ensure that the financial impacts of reform are managed and importantly, all councils and communities will transition to the new system for delivering three waters services in a better position than they are now.

The Better Off Funding component of the support package is to support the three waters service delivery reform objectives and other local wellbeing outcomes in a manner consistent with the priorities of central and local government. It is an investment by the Crown into the future for local government and community wellbeing. Territorial authorities are required to demonstrate that the use of this funding supports and aligns with the priorities set by the DIA.

Waikato District Council has been allocated a total of \$31,531,126. Under the first tranche of funding, Waikato District Council has been allocated \$7.88 million to spend on projects that meet the criteria. The second tranche of this fund, valued at \$23.65 million, is planned to be released on 1 July 2024, contingent upon the Three Waters Reform Programme progressing.

PROJECT PARAMETERS

Cumulatively, the projects must not commit WDC beyond the volume of funding available under Tranche 1, which is valued at \$7.88 million.

The expenditure program can include capital or operational expenditure, but the funding only covers projects up to 30 June 2027.

CRITERIA

The Department of Internal Affairs have issued three broad criterion for the Better Off Funding, these are:

- 1. Supporting communities to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy, including by building a resilience to climate change and natural hazards.**
- 2. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that enable housing development and growth with a focus on Brownfield and infill development opportunities where those are available.**
- 3. Delivery of infrastructure and/or services that support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.**

Waikato District Council in conjunction with iwi have applied the kaupapa assessment terms of the Wai Ora Wai Māori policy* to the Department of Internal Affairs criteria.

We have simplified the criteria, to encourage true community-led project submissions.

Waikato District Council Better Off Funding criterion:

1. Taha Wairua

Resilience and adaptation of ecosystems to aid community connectivity

- a. Kia toitū te whakawhitinga ki te whakaheke i te ōhanga o te puha kia pūmau ki te huringa o te āhua o ngā rangi

Identify opportunities to improve energy efficient buildings, energy efficient transportation and projects that assist in the reduction of carbon emissions.

- b. Kia toitū te whakawhitinga ki te whakaheke i te ōhanga o te puha kia pūmau ki ngā matepā o te taiao

Identify the natural hazards (E.g. coastal erosion, flooding, earthquake) of our district and build community resilience to manage them.

2. Taha Kikokiko

Enabling the development of infrastructure to provide community connectivity

- a. Kia āhei te hanga, ki te whakarahi ake i nga wāhi whare hou

Identify opportunities to enable growth of residential and commercial activity on undeveloped land.

- b. Kia āhei te hanga, ki te whakarahi i ngā wāhi onāiane

Identify opportunities to enable redevelopment and or revitalisation of existing residential and commercial areas to meet the changing needs of the community.

3. Taha Whānau

When our communities are connected, our whānau thrive

- a. Hei awahina i te āhuatanga o te whakahaere, i te whakawhanake i te oranga o te hāpori

Support local initiatives that improve community social and cultural well-being.

* The Wai Ora Wai Māori policy was created by the Waikato-Tainui College of Research and Development and Manaaki Whenua, Landcare Research and published June 2017.

SELECTION METHODOLOGY

All applications received will be categorised to address scale-inequity challenges using the definitions below.

Tuakana

Aimed at applicants that do not require additional support to get them contract/service ready, Council staff for example.

Tēina

Aimed at applicants with propositions that would benefit from further support to get them contract/service ready.

ASSESSMENT PANEL

A cross-functional team of evaluators will be involved in the assessment of proposals and recommending the applicants for receipt of funding.

Representative/s	Name	Organisation
Iwi Representative - Chairperson	Carolyn Hopa	East Ward Representative
Iwi Representative - Deputy Chairperson	Donald Turner	South Ward Representative
Iwi Representative	Crystal Cherrington	North Ward Representative
Iwi Representative	Haydn Solomon	West Ward Representative
Council Representative - General Manager, Service Delivery	Roger MacCulloch	Waikato District Council
Council Representative - Chief Financial Officer	Alison Diaz	Waikato District Council
Council Representative - General Manager, Community Growth	Clive Morgan	Waikato District Council
Council Representative - Procurement Manager	Everard Whangapirita	Waikato District Council

MATAURANGA MĀORI

The approach:

- Wānanga (full tikanga Māori mihi whakatau & protocols)
- If requested presentations can be held on Marae
- Whānau are able to present Written or Oral submissions that supplement their written application

Wāhanga Tuatahi Phase one, the long tail.

Taha Wairua

Taha Kikokiko

Taha Whānau,

- 30mins Pōwhiri – (Panel and staff welcomed on the marae. 2 Speakers and Kai)
- 30mins Applicants – (Prescribed process that’s facilitated by the Chair)
 - 5mins Whakawhanaungatanga – (Brief introductions)
 - 20mins Tuku Kōrero
 - 5mins Kōrerorero – (Brief Q&A)
- Poroporoaki – (Farewell and Closing Prayer – 2 Speakers)

Wāhanga Tuarua – Phase two, the short tail.

Taha Wairua

Taha Kikokiko

Taha Whānau,

- 30mins Pōwhiri – (Panel and staff welcomed on the marae. 2 Speakers and Kai)
- 40mins Applicants – (Prescribed process that’s facilitated by the Chair)
 - 5mins Whakawhanaungatanga – (Brief introductions)
 - 20mins Tuku Kōrero
 - 15mins Kōrerorero – (Brief Q&A)
- Poroporoaki – (Farewell and Closing Prayer – 2 Speakers)

Evaluation Procedure Summary:

Wāhanga tuatahi – Phase one, the long tail

- Assessed by teams of two from the Assessment Panel
 - A written application form must be completed. Supplementing evidence/support can be presented in person or written (orally or virtually)
 - Each Panel member will independently score each project against the relevant criteria.
 - Scoring will be based solely on the non-priced criteria and will be independent of other factors.
 - A shortlist will be created based on the above scoring decisions and categorised as a Tuakana or Tēina
- All applicants will be given 5 working days to further develop their proposals before Wāhanga tuarua – Phase two starts.
- Tēina applicants can request application support from Council during this time to help develop their proposals.

Wāhanga tuarua – Phase two, the short tail.

- A written application form must be completed. Supplementing evidence/support can be presented in person or written. All applicants must be available at the venue for questions.
- All 8 panel members will assess each of the proposals being presented and independently score each project against the relevant criteria.
- Scoring will be based solely on the non-priced criteria and will be independent of other factors.
- Pricing information will be introduced once the non-price scores have been finalised.
- All panel members will then collectively moderate and prioritise the proposals.
- The panel will provide a recommendation to Council, who will make the final decision on applications that to be escalated to the DIA. The DIA make all final funding decisions.

Note: if required, the panel will approach project submitters for further details.

DISCLAIMER

- 1.1.1** Applicants acknowledge that the Council is subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and that under that act the Council may be required to release information about the Project and the applicants.
- 1.1.2** In addition the Submitter agrees to comply with the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 in relation to all information relating to the Council held by the Submitter or its Assistants.
- 1.1.3** The Submitter will only release information to a third party under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 through the Council unless compelled by a competent authority, in which case it will immediately advise the Council as to the information released.