



Otago Regional Council

Financial Support for Resource Consent Processing Fees - Environmental Enhancement Projects

July 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Financial Support for Resource Consent Processing Fees - Environmental Enhancement Projects Policy provides guidance to those groups wishing to apply for support for a project which requires a resource consent. The policy confirms the Council's support for qualifying groups who are delivering environmental enhancement projects which are consistent with the Council's Strategic Directions or priorities listed in other statutory documents.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to give clear direction to applicants seeking support for resource consent processing fees for environmental enhancement projects.

3. SCOPE

The scope of this policy is limited to resource consent processing fees associated with applications made by qualifying groups for eligible environmental enhancement projects. The following costs are not within scope of this policy and will not qualify for support:

- work required in response to any actual or potential enforcement action
- administrative charges and annual consent monitoring fees associated with a granted consent
- costs associated with retrospective consents
- any costs incurred by the applicant in the preparation of the application
- costs associated with the Implementation of the activity for which consent is sought.

In addition fees support will not be provided for a publicly notified application or costs associated with a hearing for a limited notified application.

4. DELEGATIONS

Decisions on applications for fees support will be made by the General Manager Regulatory and Communications. The final decision is at Council's discretion and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval of fees support is entirely at the discretion of Council and is subject to budget availability. There is no objection or appeal rights.

Budget availability and an indication of support for any application will be provided by staff at the required pre-commencement meeting.

5. CRITERIA

To qualify for fees support the application for consent must be lodged by a not-for-profit individual or organisation such as:

- Catchment Groups
- Community groups
- Iwi/hapu groups

- Incorporated societies
- Community trusts
- Resident and ratepayer groups
- Educational institutes

and they must be able to demonstrate that their activity will deliver an environmental enhancement or service. For example, it:

- Supports or delivers improved water quality in Otago
- Supports or delivers improved air quality in Otago
- Supports or delivers improved biodiversity outcomes in Otago
- Protects the Otago environment
- Enhances the Otago environment
- Promotes the Otago environment (e.g. does it inform or create an awareness in the community or educate people?)

The project must also be consistent with Council's priorities as set in the Strategic Directions, Long Term Plan or other ORC statutory documents.

Decisions on applications for fees support will be made by the General Manager Regulatory and Communications, who may approve or decline the application. No further consideration of the application will be undertaken following issue of the final decision. There are no objection or appeal rights.

The maximum amount of support offered for consent processing fees on an individual project will be \$10,000. Costs over and above this amount will be payable by the applicant in accordance with ORC's Fees and Charges Schedule. Applicants will have the right to object to these additional fees under the standard provisions of section 357B of the Resource Management Act.

Consent processing fees support is a first come first served process. If the allocation is exhausted no further applications will be considered until the following financial year.

6. PROCESS

In order to receive consent processing fees support the group or individual applying for the consent must lodge a written request to the General Manager for processing fees to be supported before the application for consent is submitted to Council for processing. The relevant application form can be found on the ORC website. Information required to enable consideration of the application includes:

- how it meets the criteria in the policy; and
- confirmation that the group is a not for profit group and there is no commercial gain; and
- confirmation that a pre-application meeting has been or will be held with ORC consent staff prior to lodgement of the consent application.

Written confirmation of acceptance for support will be provided to the applicant within 10 working days of the request being received. This confirmation letter should be included with the application material at the time the consent application is lodged.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Resource Consent Fees Support Application Form
- Ecofund Funding Checklist and Application form (Note: your project may qualify for additional support from ORC)
- Revenue and Financing Policy