

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

3 FEBRUARY 2011

Meeting Status : Public

Purpose of Report: For Decision

HERITAGE FUND ALLOCATIONS 2010-2011

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To summarise applications for grants from the Heritage Fund, and to make recommendations on funding allocations.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 The Council's significance policy is not triggered by this report.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Heritage Fund was established in 2001 with the intention of assisting and actively encouraging landowners and members of the Kāpiti Coast community to manage, protect and enhance heritage features throughout the district including ecological, geological, historical and cultural areas and sites.
- 4 The allocation of funds is consistent with LTCCP Outcome 1 "there are healthy natural systems which people can enjoy" and Outcome 4 "the District's resources are used wisely".
- 5 To be eligible for funding, projects must meet the criteria set out in the Heritage Fund Application Criteria and Guidelines, attached as Appendix 3, or be a contribution to the establishment of a QE II Trust covenant.
- 6 Eight applications for funding in 2010-2011 have been received for the total of \$27,594 available this year for allocation.
- 7 The range of applications includes both protection and management projects in the natural and built heritage categories.
- 8 The following section will cover the details of each project and provide reasoning for the recommendations made.
- 9 The location of projects is shown on a map (Attachment 1), and there are photographs of project areas and of the building to be restored (Attachment 2).

CONSIDERATIONS

226 Te Hapua Road, Te Horo

- 10 This is a Natural Heritage Protection project located within a wetland registered as an ecological site on the District Plan Heritage Register (site number KO55). The area comprises 4.4ha of coastal modified primary wetland, and is part of the regionally significant Te Hapua complex, which is highly representative of a formerly extensive swamp and is considered the best and largest remaining example on the Kāpiti Coast. The area provides habitat for endangered bird species such as spotless crake and Australasian bittern, and for threatened plant species including *Ranunculus macropus*, *Carex dipsacea*, and *Potentilla anserinoides*.
- 11 The QE II Trust has applied for **\$2,595** (**\$1,300** for fencing costs and **\$1,295** for covenant boundary survey costs) to support the covenanting of this significant part of the wetland complex. The total project cost of **\$9,793** will be split four ways among Kāpiti Coast District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the QE II Trust and the landowner. Council biodiversity staff have worked with Te Hapua Road landowners for several years to encourage the protection and sustainable management of the wetland complex. Following the registration of this covenant by the QE II Trust Board, Te Hapua will have 10 covenants on private land, the highest density in the Wellington region.
- 12 Council resolved in 2001 as part of its Heritage Strategy to provide a guaranteed contribution to any new QE II Trust covenant established on the Kāpiti Coast (Appendix 4 attached). Therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

23 Hadfield Road, Peka Peka

- 13 This is a Natural Heritage Protection project to covenant two blocks of coastal modified primary forest totalling 7ha, both registered as ecological sites on the District Plan Heritage Register.
- 14 Block A (site number KO58) is contiguous with an existing QEII covenant on an adjacent property. Together they are known as 'Awatea Bush', and comprise an outstanding remnant of mature kohekohe dominated forest that includes a stream and a relict population of the rare native tree *Streblus banksii* (turepo or large-leaved milk tree).
- 15 Block B (KO59) is on the escarpment above the main trunk railway line and comprises remnant kohekohe-tawa forest, a natural spring and a small induced raupo wetland.
- 16 The QE II Trust has applied for **\$8,010** (**\$5,000** for fencing costs, **\$560** for covenant boundary survey costs and **\$2,450** for weed control) out of a total project cost of **\$33,888** to be split four ways among Kāpiti Coast District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the QE II Trust and the landowner.

- 17 Council resolved in 2001 as part of its Heritage Strategy to provide a guaranteed contribution to any new QE II Trust covenant established on the Kāpiti Coast (Appendix 4 attached). Therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

25 Hadfield Road, Peka Peka

- 18 This is a Natural Heritage Protection project to covenant a block of modified primary coastal kohekohe-tawa-titoki forest protecting a stream in a gully on a steep slope. The 2.15 ha remnant forms an ecological link with the escarpment block described in paragraph 15 above, which in turn links to Awatea Bush. Collectively these forest covenants will compliment the network of wetland covenants in Te Hapua Road to the north-west, forming a sequence of protected ecosystems between the coast and the Tararua Ranges.
- 19 Once covenanted, this block will be added to the list of ecological sites on the District Plan's Heritage Register.
- 20 The QE II Trust has applied for **\$4,950** (**\$3,550** for fencing costs, **\$525** for covenant boundary survey costs and **\$875** for weed control) out of a total project cost of **\$17,635** to be split four ways among Kāpiti Coast District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the QE II Trust and the landowner.
- 21 Council resolved in 2001 as part of its Heritage Strategy to provide a guaranteed contribution to any new QE II Trust covenant established on the Kāpiti Coast (Appendix 4 attached). Therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

219 State Highway 1, Paekākāriki

- 22 This is a Built Heritage Preservation project to dismantle and restore the old water tower at the Paekākāriki rail yards. The buildings and structures at the yards, including the water tower, have a Historic Places Trust Category 1 listing, and are used by Steam Incorporated to store and maintain their historic trains.
- 23 The project entails dismantling and restoring the existing tower, then erecting it in a new location at the south end of the yards.
- 24 Once common throughout the country, railway water towers are now rare, and the one at Paekākāriki provides the public with an opportunity to watch a steam locomotive taking water.
- 25 The applicants are seeking **\$2,500** out of a project cost of up to **\$6,000**.
- 26 This project meets all the Heritage Fund criteria, therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

66 Smithfield Road, Waikanae

- 27 This is a Natural Heritage Management project to protect and enhance a 4ha remnant of wetland, swamp forest and dry forest of high quality and diverse species representation listed as ecological site K133 on the District Plan's Heritage Register. Located within 300m of Nga Manu Nature Reserve, the remnant forms part of an important ecological link between Kāpiti Island, the Hemi Matenga Reserve and the Tararua Ranges. The remnant is protected by a QE II Trust covenant and the landowners are committed to improving its values through good management.
- 28 The applicants seek **\$1,000** out of a project cost of **\$2,000** for pest animal control products and native plants for buffer planting on the forest margins.
- 29 This project meets all the Heritage Fund criteria, therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

418 Ōtaki Gorge Road

- 30 This is a Natural Heritage Protection project to covenant five totara forest remnants covering 18.8 ha on the Hautere Plains south of the Ōtaki River. Though listed as ecological sites on the District Plan's Heritage Register (KO45, KO46, KO31, KO32, K165) these remnants are either unfenced or inadequately fenced and suffer from severe pest plant and animal problems threatening their high values.
- 31 One of the blocks (KO31) is the best remaining example of totara forest on alluvial plains in the Kāpiti district, while a second (KO46 – 7.04ha) is the largest. Both blocks are classified as regionally significant. Only scattered fragments of the great totara forest for which the Hautere Plains was renowned remain, and the adequate protection of the blocks on this property is a milestone for the preservation of this forest type in the district.
- 32 The application from the QE II Trust is part of a larger effort to secure Department of Conservation Biodiversity Condition Fund support for adequate fencing and a three-year pest plant and animal control programme.
- 33 The Trust has applied for **\$6,000** out of a project cost of about **\$80,000** as a contribution toward fencing, which will allow covenants already approved by the QE II Trust Board to proceed to registration. Greater Wellington Regional Council, the QE II Trust and the landowner are also contributing to the project.
- 34 Council resolved in 2001 as part of its Heritage Strategy to provide a guaranteed contribution to any new QE II Trust covenant established on the Kāpiti Coast (Appendix 4 attached). Therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

State Highway 1 South, Ōtaki

- 35 This is a Natural Heritage Management project to develop a restoration plan for one of the few large wetland and swamp forest remnants in the Foxton Ecological District, located on private land adjacent to Huruatai Park, a Kāpiti Coast District Council Reserve in Ōtaki.
- 36 Known as Haruatai Park Forest, the 6.95ha remnant is listed on the District Plan's Heritage Register (KO13) and is classified as regionally significant for containing primary kahikatea-pukatea swamp forest, rare in the district.
- 37 The forest is inadequately fenced and has suffered from a lack of protective management, resulting in frequent stock intrusions and weed problems. Greater Wellington Regional Council proposes to commission a restoration plan for the forest and for other significant wetland ecosystems in the region, and seeks **\$1,984** out of a project cost of about **\$20,000** as a contribution to pay Peter Handford and Associates to develop a plan. Greater Wellington and the landowners will also contribute.
- 38 In addition to being worthwhile in itself, developing and implementing a restoration plan for Haruatai Forest will compliment recent Council efforts to improve the ecological and amenity values of Haruatai Park through planting, weeding and track improvements. Keep Ōtaki Beautiful and the Department of Corrections are also contributing to the enhancement of the area.
- 39 This project meets all of the Heritage Fund criteria, therefore it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

168 Taylors Road, Ōtaki

- 40 This is a Natural Heritage Management Project to assist the buffering of Pukehou Swamp, a 24.7 hectare wetland north of Ōtaki identified as Ecological Site KO13 on the District Plan's Heritage Register.
- 41 Pukehou Swamp is the best and largest representative example of wetland-swamp forest associations in the Manawatu Plains Ecological District. These associations once dominated the landscape between Paekākāriki and Foxton, but have been reduced to small and scattered remnants. Pukehou is considered regionally significant and is therefore a priority for biodiversity protection. In addition to providing habitat for native birds it is noted for containing rare plant species (*Korthalsella salicorniodes*, *Hypolepsis distans* and *Doodia australis*).
- 42 The landowner has started planting native plants on the wetland edges of his property, which is in the south-western corner of Pukehou. The project is to reinforce and extend this planting to provide a buffer and additional habitat for native fauna. The landowner was instrumental in ensuring that most of the wetland, divided among several private properties, was placed under Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Covenant, and he is committed to its protection and enhancement.

- 43 The applicant is seeking **\$550** out of a project cost of **\$1,100**. The Council funds will pay for eco-sourced native plants, with the landowner's contribution being preparation, planting and ongoing maintenance of the planted area.
- 44 The project meets all the Heritage Fund criteria and it is recommended that funds be approved as requested.

Financial Considerations

- 30 If funding is approved as recommended, **\$27,594** of the **\$27,594** in the 2010-2011 Heritage Fund budget will be allocated. There are no other financial considerations.

Legal Considerations

- 31 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

- 32 The Environment and Community Development Committee has delegated authority to consider this matter. Reference Section B.1 of the Governance Structure reads:

7.1 Authority to develop (within any wider existing strategic framework) policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community. This authority encompasses the power to:

- *Have oversight of all cultural, arts and heritage matters.*

Policy Implications

- 33 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

Publicity Considerations

- 34 The opportunity exists for positive publicity associated with these projects. A press release will be prepared about the funding allocations.

CONCLUSION

- 35 Applications for the Heritage Fund received this year are all considered worthy and, should the recommended funds be approved, conservation projects estimated to cost more than \$169,000 will be enabled. A total of 4.4ha of wetland and 28ha of lowland forest will be protected in perpetuity by QE II Trust covenants whose establishment will entail restorative management through fencing and pest animal and weed control.
- 36 Much of the district's threatened indigenous biodiversity survives in scattered remnants on private land. Protecting such remnants is one of the foremost

objectives of national, regional and local government biodiversity policies. Establishing QE II Trust covenants is the strongest protection.

- 37 The last decade has seen a steady increase in the number of covenants established in the district, coinciding with the development of a productive collaborative partnership between the QE II Trust and Council, based on good staff rapport and support through the Heritage Fund.
- 38 Should the recommended funds be approved, three landowners will receive a total of \$4,050 to assist the management of either a natural or built heritage feature. The Heritage Fund was created to encourage landowners to protect and enhance significant heritage features. This year's funding will meet that objective.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 39 That funding is approved to applicants as set out in the following table.

Project	Total Project Cost	Requested Assistance	Recommended Assistance
226 Te Hapua Rd, Te Horo	\$9,793.00	\$2,595.00	\$2,595.00
23 Hadfield Rd, Peka Peka	\$33,888.00	\$8,010.00	\$8,010.00
25 Hadfield Rd, Peka Peka	\$17,635.00	\$4,950.00	\$4,950.00
219 SH 1, Paekākāriki	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
66 Smithfield Rd, Waikanae	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
418 Ōtaki Gorge Rd, Ōtaki	\$80,000	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
0 SH1 South, Ōtaki	\$20,000.00	\$1,984.00	\$1,989.00
168 Taylors Rd, Ōtaki	\$1,110.00	\$555.00	\$555.00
Total	\$169,426	\$27,594	\$27,594

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 – Location of Heritage Fund Projects 2010-2011

Appendix 2 – Powerpoint slides: Heritage Fund 2010-2011

Appendix 3 – Heritage Fund Criteria and Guidelines

Appendix 4 – Council resolution 10.20.17, 4 October 2001