



Otago
Regional
Council

ECO Fund 2025



Webinar 25 February 2025 | Elodie Letendre, Environmental Funding Lead



Welcome

This webinar will be recorded and will be made available on our website.

Please remain on mute and turn off your camera if you don't agree to be recorded.

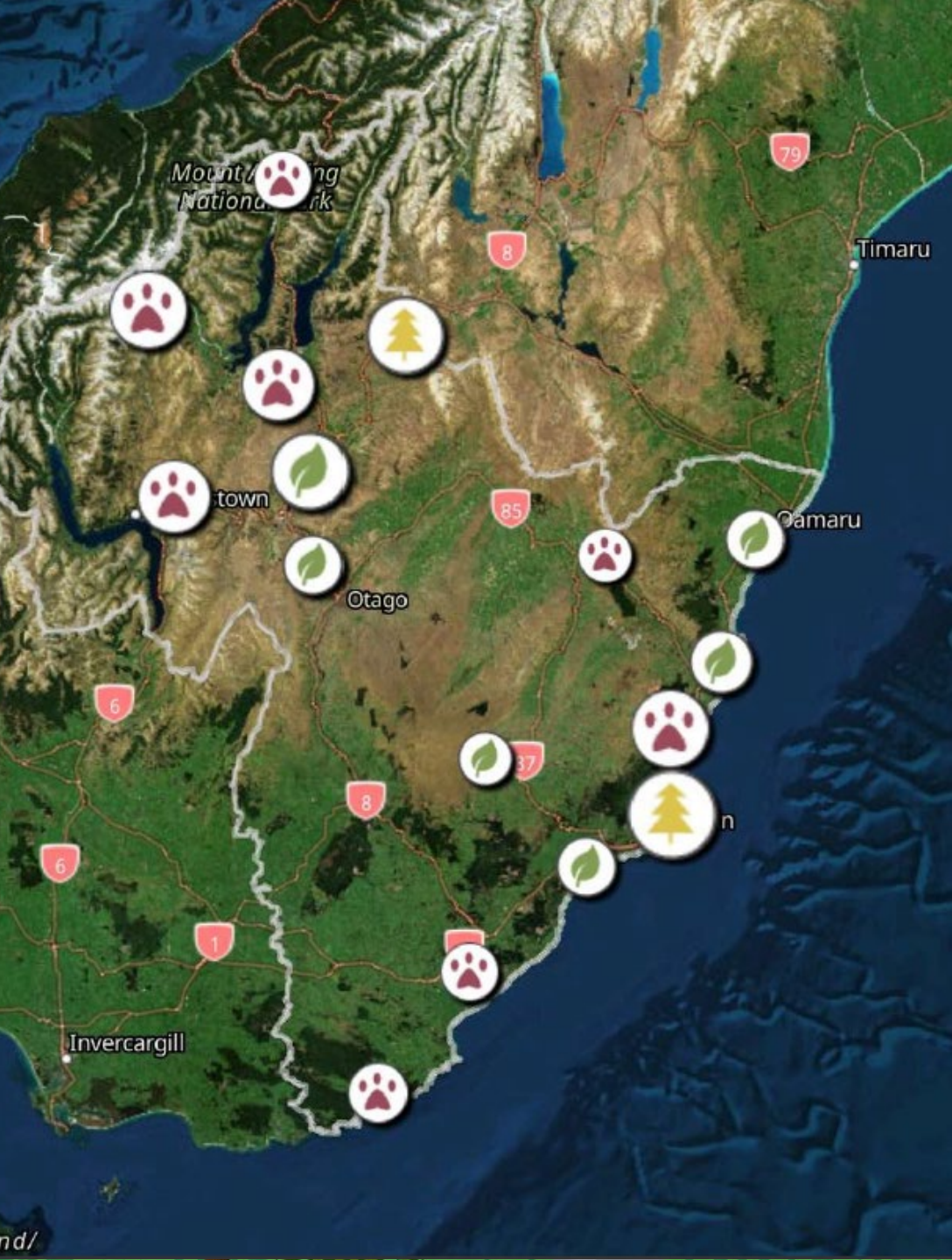
The webinar is set to last one hour.

Feel free to ask questions through the Chat or at the end of this session.



Agenda

- 1 What is ECO Fund
- 2 Funding categories
- 3 Eligibility
- 4 Tips for a successful ECO Fund application
- 5 How and where to apply for the ECO Fund
- 6 Q&As



What is ECO Fund

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Environment. Community. Otago.
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For projects that protect, enhance and promote Otago's environment.

Projects can be for up to three years.

One ECO Fund round per year and one application per applicant per round

Examples of activities supported: rabbit management, weed removal, native planting and revegetation, water quality improvements.



2025 Funding round

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Applications open: 1st - 31st March

Revised eligibility, assessment criteria, terms
and conditions

6 funding categories

Funding categories

Funding category	Funding cap <u>per project</u>	Funding Budget Total
Large-scale biodiversity projects	Between \$50,000 & \$150,000	\$450,000
General (on-ground and education)	Up to \$50,000	\$309,500
Sustained rabbit management	Up to \$50,000	\$100,000
Biodiversity enhancement on protected private land	Up to \$15,000	\$100,000
Critical source area management on private land	Up to \$15,000	\$50,000
Weed removal and revegetation	Up to \$15,000	\$50,000
	TOTAL	\$1,059,500

Funding objectives

Funding category	Objectives
Large-scale biodiversity projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To protect and enhance native biodiversity.• To enable larger scale projects for significant biodiversity outcomes aligned with regional priorities.
General (on-ground and education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To protect and enhance Otago's environment.• To enable community-led environmental activities.
Sustained rabbit management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To manage rabbit populations in new or existing community programme areas.• To enable landowners and community to work together to manage rabbit populations.
Biodiversity enhancement on protected private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enhance existing protected areas of biodiversity on private land.• To enable private landholders to maintain existing biodiversity.
Critical source area management on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve water quality.• To support private landholders to manage critical source areas for native biodiversity.
Weed removal and revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve native vegetation through removal of weeds / pest plants and rehabilitation.• To increase area of native terrestrial biodiversity.

Applicants' eligibility

Category Applicant	General	Large scale biodiversity projects	Biodiversity enhancement on protected private land	Sustained rabbit management	Critical source area management on private land	Weed removal and revegetation
Incorporated society	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Registered charitable trusts	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Resident and ratepayer groups	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
Unincorporated groups	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
Educational institutions	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Private / individual landholders	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Groups of private landholders (multiple adjacent landholdings)	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Private landowners of property/ies with the following status: * Māori customary land * Māori freehold land * Crown land reserved for Māori * Land within the boundary of an original native reserve, if that land is still owned or partly owned by Māori	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Iwi/hapū	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y



Project's eligibility

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Project must be located in **Otago**.

Project cannot be funded for more than **3 years** in duration.

Project must align with the **objectives** of the relevant funding category.

Project must be feasible, realistic and achievable.



Project's eligibility (cont.)

Management agreement(s) or relevant written permission(s) that allow the project to be completed on site must be in place **before** submitting your application.

Wages are capped at:

- \$50,000 for the General and Large-scale Biodiversity projects funding categories
- \$15,000 for all other funding categories (including sustained rabbit management)

Maintenance costs for projects previously funded by ECO Fund will only be funded up to two times.

Project's eligibility per funding category

Funding category	Objectives	Specific criteria
Large-scale biodiversity projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance <u>native biodiversity</u>. To enable larger scale projects for <u>significant biodiversity outcomes</u> aligned with regional priorities. 	<p>Project must engage or involve the community. Wages are capped at \$50,000. Project must have a clear biodiversity outcome.</p>
General (on-ground and education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect and enhance Otago's environment. To enable <u>community-led</u> environmental activities. 	<p>Project must engage or involve the community. If the application is for an education project, there must be some engagement or target audience.</p>
Sustained rabbit management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage <u>rabbit</u> populations in new or existing <u>community programme areas</u>. To enable landowners and community to <u>work together</u> to manage rabbit populations. 	<p>Project must engage or involve the community. Wages are capped at \$15,000. Rabbit control costs, including poisons (e.g. Pindone, Magtoxin), shooting or rabbit contractor costs, will not be funded.</p>

Project's eligibility per funding category

Funding category	Objectives	Specific criteria
Biodiversity enhancement on protected private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance existing <u>protected</u> areas of biodiversity on private land. To enable <u>private landholders</u> to maintain existing biodiversity. 	
Critical source area management on private land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve <u>water quality</u>. To support <u>private landholders</u> to manage critical source areas for <u>native biodiversity</u>. 	
Weed removal and revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve <u>native vegetation</u> through removal of weeds / pest plants and <u>rehabilitation</u>. To increase area of <u>native terrestrial biodiversity</u>. 	Project must engage or involve the community.



Exclusions

Activities required by legislation, regulation, consent conditions or compliance direction

Resource consent or bylaw approval application fees

Projects for commercial or private gain

Seed capital

Non-native plants (unless assessed as appropriate for the project outcomes and for improved environmental outcomes)

Amenity purposes (e.g. cycleway., bridge, amenity planting)

Retrospective costs

Advice - Check our website orc.govt.nz/ecofund

Enhancing and protecting

Enviroschools

Grants and funding

ECO Fund

Contact ECO Fund

ECO Fund progress report

ECO Fund final report

Funding categories

Eligibility

Assessment criteria

Terms and conditions

Tips for writing a good application

FAQs



Assessment criteria

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Project objectives align with the funding category
environmental outcomes

Applicant capacity (feasibility)

Impact of the project scale

Biodiversity and cultural environmental values

Special biodiversity values

Level of community engagement

Value for money

New applicants



Advice - Scope your project

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Objectives	Timeline
Location	Activities
Outputs	Monitoring
Maintenance	Budget



Advice - Consider early on

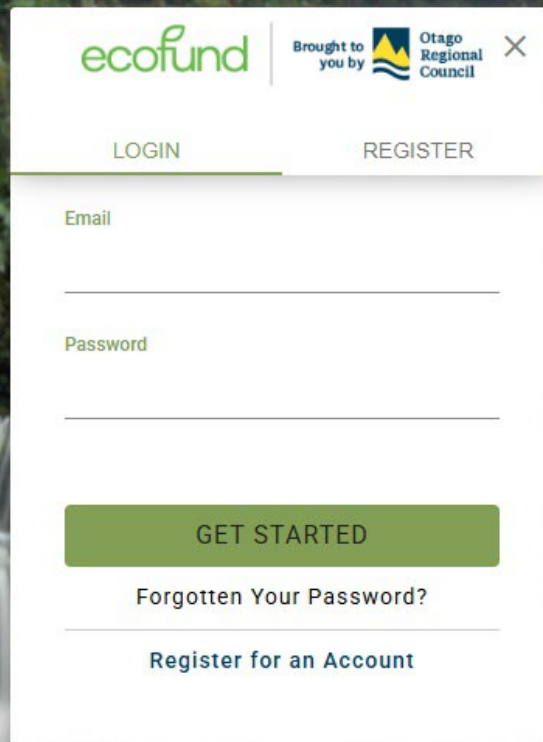
If you need information from third parties: resource consents and other approvals (management agreements / written permissions) or quotes.

Health and safety

How you will monitor and maintain the project's benefits.

If you need to submit your final report for your previous project.

How and where to apply



The screenshot shows the ecofund website interface. At the top left is the 'ecofund' logo. To its right is the text 'Brought to you by' followed by the Otago Regional Council logo and a close button (X). Below this are two tabs: 'LOGIN' (selected) and 'REGISTER'. The main form area contains two input fields: 'Email' and 'Password'. Below the fields is a green 'GET STARTED' button. Underneath the button are two links: 'Forgotten Your Password?' and 'Register for an Account'.

Apply online

On 1st March, a tile will appear on
www.orc.govt.nz/eco-fund

Register as a user

Then register your organisation as the applicant.
For individual landowners, you will still need to
register your organisation.

Discuss your project with ORC staff



Catchment Advisors and Community Coordinators -
Biosecurity

ECO Fund team:

www.orc.govt.nz/contactecofund

0800 474 082

ecofund@orc.govt.nz

Site visits can be organised



Q&As

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Thank you for attending this webinar.

If you have further questions, contact us at:

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