

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES FUND

PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE 2025 FUNDING ROUND

ABOUT THIS FUNDING ROUND

A total of 32 applications were received in the 2025/26 Environmental Initiatives Fund (EIF) round, totalling \$1,029,665.24 in requested funds. 1 application was ineligible, and 16 applications were declined. Grants totalling \$478,557.60 were made to 15 projects.

DRIVING CREEK RAILWAY ARTS AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Project: Whangarahi (Driving Creek) Catchment Conservation
District: Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution: \$17,680 (\$9,360.00 in Year 1; \$8,320.00 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

The Driving Creek Railway Arts and Conservation Trust was established to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the 23ha QEII covenanted property and the surrounding 300ha buffer zone near Coromandel town. This funding will be used to support targeted pest plant control throughout regenerating indigenous podocarp-broadleaf forest.

FRIENDS OF MANGAONUA ESPLANADE SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Project: Mangaonua Gully Restoration
District: Hamilton City
EIF Contribution: \$37,947.68 (\$22,440.36 in Year 1; \$15,507.32 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

Friends of Mangaonua Gully is a charitable trust with an aim to restore the original biodiversity of Mangaonua Gully and foster community engagement and guardianship. The approved funds will be used to support the pest plant control around young native plantings and prepare sites for new plantings to be established by community volunteers.

HAAKARIMATA RESTORATION TRUST

Project: Haakarimata Tomokanga - Starting Together Up The Restoration Path
District: Waikato
EIF Contribution: \$36,244.01 (\$23,271.01 in Year 1; \$12,973.00 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding: 2 years

The Haakarimata Restoration Trust (HRT) was formally established in 2025 to protect, restore, and enhance the ecological, cultural, and social values of the Haakarimata Ranges, building on previous volunteer and community-led restoration efforts. The approved funds will be used to enable community engagement and capability building, workshop delivery, biodiversity monitoring and administration support.

KUKUTARUHE EDUCATION TRUST BOARD

Project:	The Fairfield Project - Kukutaaruhe Gully Restoration
District:	Hamilton City
EIF Contribution:	\$23,944.00
Duration of Funding:	1 year

The Fairfield Project, governed by the Kukutaaruhe Education Trust (KET), was established in 2017 as an intergenerational, community-led restoration and educational project with the aim to connect the community with urban green spaces. The approved funds will be utilised to support project management for ecological restoration.

NGĀTI MARU KI HAURAKI INCORPORATED

Project:	Tiaki Pōhutukawa Takutai, Aroturuki me te Whakahaere Paihamu (Possum)
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$39,748.43
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Ngāti Maru Ki Hauraki Incorporated on behalf of Ko Moehau ki Tai, is a Hauraki iwi led initiative focused on restoring indigenous biodiversity and protecting the cultural and ecological values of their ancestral land. This funding will be used to develop and maintain a possum control programme for Pōhutukawa protection in the northern Coromandel.

NGĀTI TAMATERĀ TREATY CLAIMS TRUST

Project:	Ō-kahu-tai Environmental Weed Control
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$34,320.00 (\$17,160 in Year 1; \$17,160 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

Ngāti Tamaterā Treaty Claims Trust is an Iwi organisation on the Coromandel Peninsula. One of the trust's focus areas is the restoration of whenua that holds significance to their Iwi. Funding will be utilised to support the management of pest plants in areas of high value biodiversity.

NGĀTI TE MAUNGA WHENUAKURA INCORPORATED

Project:	Whenuakura Ecological Management Plan 2025-28
District:	Taupō
EIF Contribution:	\$39,887.82
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Ngāti Te Maunga Whenuakura Incorporated is a hapū organisation working to protect and restore rare ecosystems in the southern Pureora area. The approved funds will go towards purchasing trapping materials to establish a predator control network throughout the Whenuakura frost flat.

PROJECT KIWI TRUST

Project:	Project Kiwi Trust - Kūaotunu Peninsula
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$39,411.68 (\$22,255.84 in Year 1; \$17,155.84 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

Project Kiwi Trust is a Kiwi conservation group established in 1996 to protect Coromandel brown kiwi on the Kūaotunu Peninsula with a key focus on mustelid control. Funding will be utilised to purchase predator control materials and support track maintenance throughout the project area.

TE RANGA WAIRUA TRUST

Project:	Harataunga Matuku-hūrepo Protection
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$34,045.94
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Te Ranga Wairua Trust is a Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki initiative that has recently formalised into a trust after years of iwi/volunteers working on the Te Ranga Wairua environmental restoration project. This funding will go towards track cutting and the purchase and installation of predator control materials for the protection of Australasian bittern.

TE REKEREKE TAIAO TRUST

Project:	The Karioi Coast Pest Plant and Threatened Plant Project
District:	Waikato
EIF Contribution:	\$18,742.86 (\$9,753.88 in Year 1; \$8,988.98 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

Te Rekereke Taiao Trust is a community group operating in and around the Raglan area to create and strengthen forest and wildlife corridors and empower communities to identify and control pest plants and be part of the recovery of threatened native plant species. This funding will go towards the development of a series of educational videos for pest plant identification and control and expanding the library of pest plant control tools.

THE FRIENDS OF TE WHANGANUI O HEI MARINE RESERVE

Project:	Whitebait Connection and Experiencing Marine Reserves Programmes
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$36,000.00 (\$18,000.00 in Year 1; \$18,000.00 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

The Friends of Te Whanganui O Hei Marine Reserve is a charitable trust established in 2010 to be the regional provider for the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust's, Experiencing Marine Reserves Programme and later, the delivery of the Whitebait Connection programme. This funding will support the delivery of these two programmes to local area schools in the Hauraki/ Coromandel region.

THE NEW ZEALAND COASTAL TRUST

Project:	Wainuiototo New Chums Headland Restoration
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$30,000.00 (\$15,625.00 in Year 1; \$14,375.00 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

The New Zealand Coastal Trust is a charitable trust formed by the Environmental Defence Society to promote sustainable management and permanent protection of coastal land. This funding will be utilised to develop and maintain a predator control programme as well as carry out biodiversity monitoring and pest plant control across the Wainuiototo (New Chums) project area.

TĀNGARO TUIA TE ORA - ENDANGERED SPECIES FOUNDATION

Project:	Awhi Awa Embrace a Stream
District:	Region wide
EIF Contribution:	\$20,000.00 (\$10,000.00 in Year 1; \$10,000.00 in Year 2)
Duration of Funding:	2 years

The Endangered Species Foundation supports high-priority conservation projects that combine mātauranga Māori and science to restore ecological health and strengthen biodiversity. This funding is to support the delivery of their Awhi Awa | Embrace a Stream programme to schools, early childhood centres and community groups.

W T NICHOLLS TRUST

Project:	Ki Uta Ki Tai Biodiversity project
District:	Thames-Coromandel
EIF Contribution:	\$40,000.00
Duration of Funding:	1 year

W T Nicholls Trust is an Iwi/hapū group established in 2011 to align kaitiakitanga with whānau land. The trust administers a 250ha land block with significant biodiversity value. The funding for this project will be used to carry out pest plant control activities and for materials to support and extend their current predator control programme.

WAIPĀ RERE NOA INCORPORATED

Project:	Kahikatea Forest Fragments Community Weed Control and Eradication Program
District:	
EIF Contribution:	\$30,585.18
Duration of Funding:	1 year

Waipā Rere Noa Incorporated was formally established in 2018 with the aim of restoring the Upper Waipā River area through revegetation, protection of kahikatea forest fragments, and restoration of native ecosystems. This funding will be used to support materials to undertake a pest plant control programme throughout kahikatea forest fragments in the upper Waipā river catchment.