

**Date:** Friday, 14 February 2025  
**Time:** 12.30pm  
**Meeting Room:** Room 1, Level 26  
**Venue:** Te Wharau o Tāmaki - Auckland House  
 135 Albert Street  
 Auckland

## Ngā Hui a te Rōpū Kaitohutohu Take ā Taiwhenua / Rural Advisory Panel

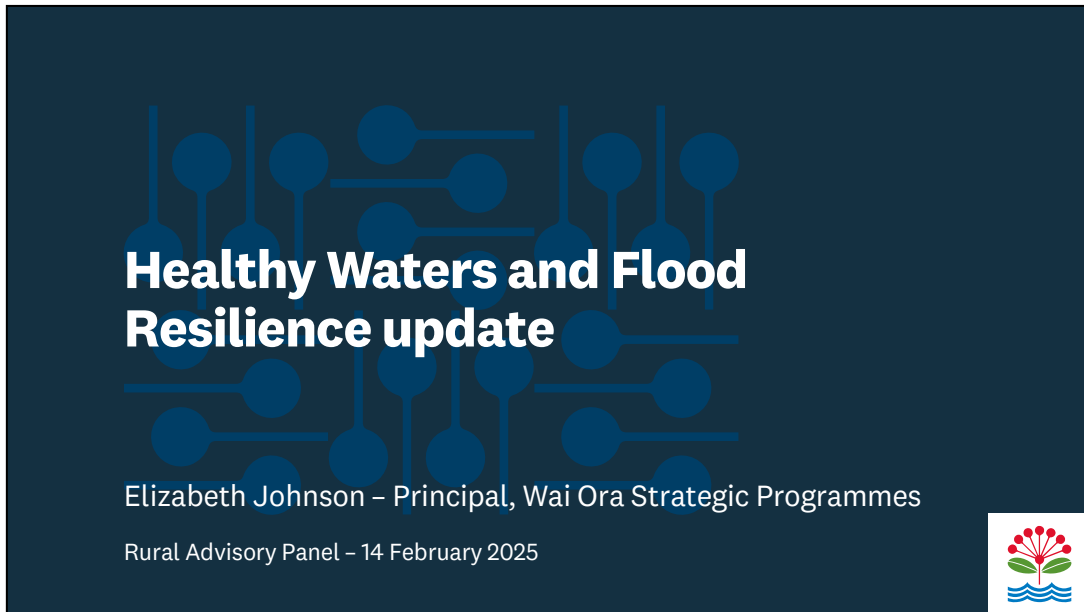
### OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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14/02/2025


Item 5



**Healthy Waters and Flood Resilience update**

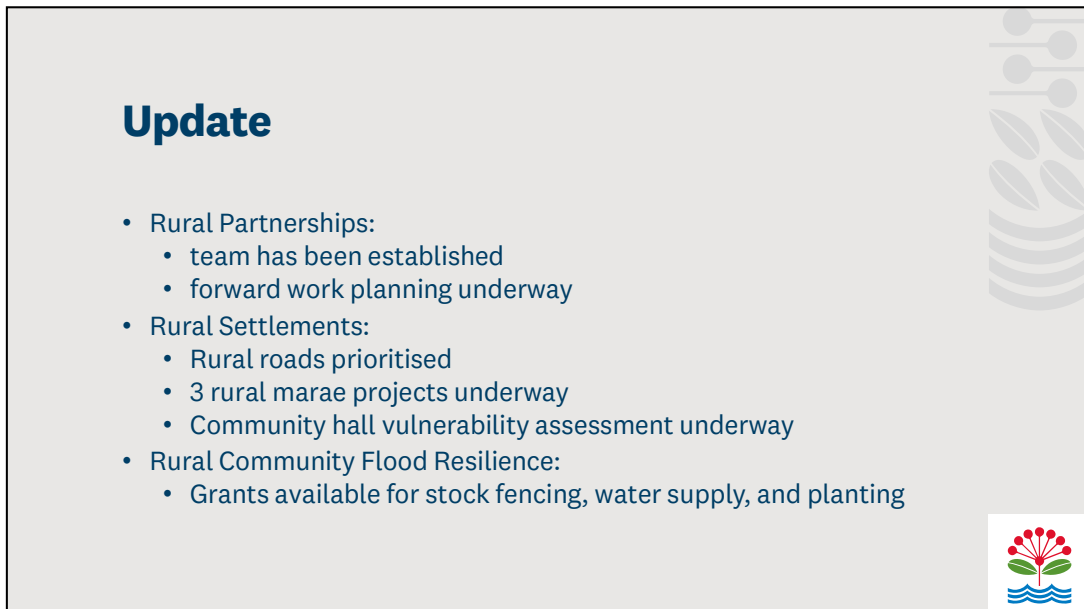
Elizabeth Johnson – Principal, Wai Ora Strategic Programmes

Rural Advisory Panel – 14 February 2025




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Attachment A



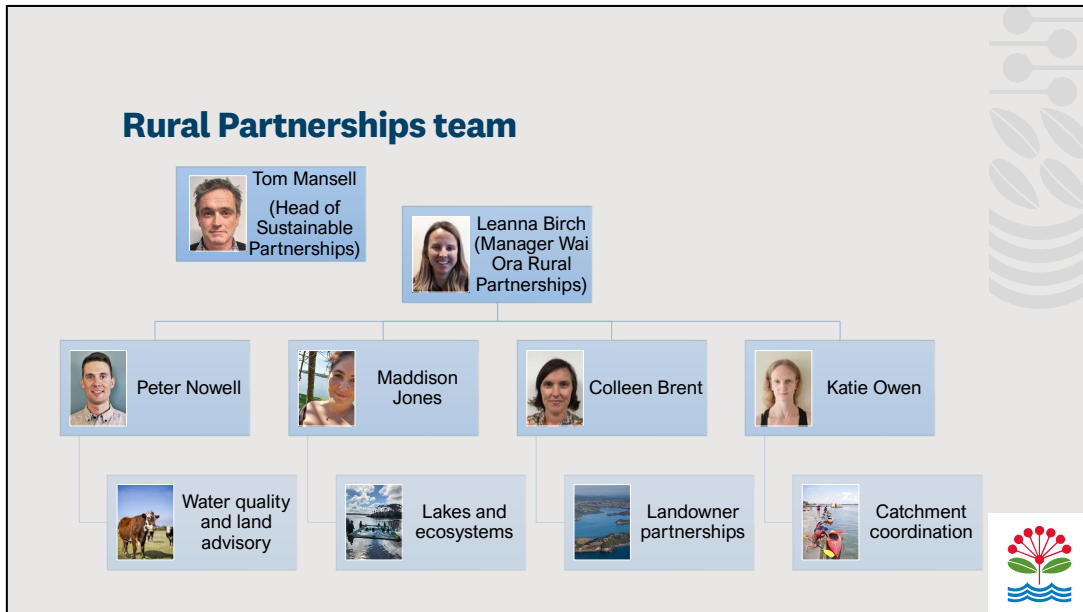
**Update**

- Rural Partnerships:
  - team has been established
  - forward work planning underway
- Rural Settlements:
  - Rural roads prioritised
  - 3 rural marae projects underway
  - Community hall vulnerability assessment underway
- Rural Community Flood Resilience:
  - Grants available for stock fencing, water supply, and planting



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### Rural Partnerships team work programme

- Funding and grant programmes
- Education and engagement
- Expert advice
- Working with Panel organisations:
  - Quarterly work programme updates
  - Inclusion in relevant projects
  - Attendance at events (eg Fielddays)
- Please contact us to discuss issues or possible projects  
[ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

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### Rural flood resilience initiatives

- Partnership approach to planning and delivery (Auckland Transport / Parks and Community Facilities / Marae Infrastructure)
- Advice and advocacy to Auckland Transport to identify most vulnerable roads around community halls. Projects being priced.
- Marae in Omaha and Kaipara benefiting from project funding for vulnerable water supply assets
- Collaborative data sharing and planning for rural community asset investment
- Contestable grants open for flood-prone property improvements for fencing and planting



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### Making Space for Water – rural fund



45% – 65% of cost

- Stock exclusion fencing of wetlands
- Stock exclusion fencing (new or relocating existing) of flood plains
- Provision of alternative stock water supplies
- Planting fenced riparian areas and wetlands



Eligibility

- Private properties >5 hectares
- In priority catchments: Mauku Stream, Whangamaire Stream, Oira Creek, Whangapouri Creek, Pukekohe - Tutaenui Stream, Slippery Creek



Apply

- Email [ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) to book a site visit
- Apply through Smarty Grants before 17 March 2025 <https://aucklandcouncil.smartygrants.com.au/MSRWF24-25>



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**MAKING SPACE FOR RURAL WATER FUND**

# Guidelines

2024-2025

[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Item 5

Attachment B

## Making Space for Rural Water Fund 2024-2025

### Introduction

The Making Space for Rural Water Fund (the Fund) is a new Auckland Council grants programme. It was formed in response to the flood events in early 2023.

The Fund supports Auckland's rural landowners to minimise the impacts of flooding on productive land. This has the added value of also improving water quality.

### Who can apply?

Funding is available to rural private landowners with a property larger than 5ha. This year, the Fund gives priority to rural private landowners in the following priority flood risk catchments: Mauku Stream, Whangamaire Stream, Oira Creek, Whangapouri Creek, Pukekohe - Tutaenui Stream, and Slippery Creek.

### What can I apply for?

Funding is available for:

- stock exclusion fencing (new or relocating existing) for flood plains<sup>1</sup> (low lying areas and next to streams and rivers) and wetlands,
- alternative water supplies where stock previously accessed unfenced waterways,
- native, eco-sourced plantings of stock excluded flood plains and wetlands.

### What will not be funded?

The Fund will not provide funding for:

- Fencing of waterways (streams, rivers and lakes) for non-flood related benefits,
- Any retrospective work completed prior to Council receiving a signed Funding Grant Agreement,
- Projects on public land,
- Any form of earthworks,
- Fencing or planting which is a condition of current or future resource consents e.g. subdivision consents, or for gaining transferrable titles.

### Minimum Standards for the Making Space for Rural Water Fund

Flood Plain or Wetland Fencing
<p>For flood plains and wetlands, the fence should go around the natural margins of the area. Preferably, a flood plain will have a 5m buffer from the edge to maximise flood mitigation and enhance water quality and biodiversity outcomes.</p> <p>The minimum standard is permanent fencing (two electric wires with wooden posts). Fencing type will be determined on site with the Land Advisor to ensure appropriateness and practicality (i.e., account for stock type, flood zone, topography etc while ensuring stock are permanently excluded).</p> <p>Excluding stock and shifting fencing to outside of naturally occurring flood plains and wetlands improves water infiltration and holding efficiency of the soil, prevents fence damage, and potential blockages downstream. These factors can have a positive impact on flooding severity, water quality and biodiversity outcomes.</p>

<sup>1</sup> To see if your property is in a flood plain, search for [Auckland Council Flood Viewer](#) on the internet

**2** email: [ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



## Making Space for Rural Water Fund 2024-2025

Floodplain and Wetland Restoration Planting
Planting stock excluded flood plains and wetlands with flood-appropriate species helps slow water movement, improve water infiltration and soil retention that can help minimise the severity of flooding.
All plants must be native, eco-sourced and appropriate to the planting area. Eco-sourced plants are grown from seeds collected locally, which ensures they are adapted to the area's climate and soils. This boosts survival and supports local biodiversity. Your assigned land advisor will create a planting plan for you, which will include plant species list, and timings of when works should occur.
Releasing (controlling weeds post planting to maximise plant survival) is always part of a planting plan. Releasing is done over summer, usually one round of releasing in November/December and another in March/April the following year, for a minimum of two years.
For stream restoration planting information refer to: <a href="#">Auckland Council Streamside Planting Guide</a> For restoration information refer to: <a href="#">Te Haumanu Taiao – read the guide</a> For wetland restoration and planting information refer to: <a href="#">Wetland Restoration Guide</a>

## How much of my application will Council fund?

The Fund provides between 40 and 65 per cent contribution towards your application. This helps Auckland Council maximise the Fund's benefit by providing financial aid to the greatest number of applicants and increase the extent of flood reduction projects completed in the Auckland region.

Grant reimbursements from Auckland Council are made as GST **exclusive** payments as this transaction does not involve the transfer of goods or services. Grant recipients will receive reimbursement payment/s minus any GST up to the value of the approved grant.

## Council's Funding Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined below:

**Environmental benefits:** Improved water infiltration and retention to lessen flood risk, level of resulting improved water quality and aquatic ecological health, the type and significance of the land to be protected, the length or size of the waterway, flood plain or wetland, and total area to be protected or enhanced to reduce flood risk.

**Feasibility and likelihood of success:** Projects should be practical and feasible. There should be a high likelihood of all proposed activities being completed successfully and to project scope within the funding timeframe.

## Who will assess applications?

The initial assessment of applications and final decision on allocation of grants will be undertaken by the Auckland Council's Wai Ora Rural Partnerships team.

A cultural heritage review may also be undertaken as part of the funding allocation process.

## How is the funding provided?

Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with Auckland Council. This will be provided to you by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. You will then have 18 months from signing of your Funding Agreement to commence and complete the project and seek financial reimbursement.

email: [ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

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## Making Space for Rural Water Fund 2024-2025

Funds are paid as reimbursements after the work is completed and the land advisor has completed an audit. This includes a site visit to audit the project area, and copies of full receipts, invoices, and/or packing slips are provided.

Typically, it takes 2 weeks for Auckland Council to make payments, therefore we highly encourage successful applicants to contact us as soon as work is complete.

The property owner is expected to maintain and manage this funded work as an on-going commitment. This is outlined in the Funding Agreement.

## How to Apply – Applications close 5pm Monday 17 March 2025

You will be required to fill in a funding application form. To get started, book a free site visit with one of our Land Advisors to provide you with advice and the necessary information and support for your application (e.g., project maps, supplier quotes, which is required as part of your application).

### Step One - between Monday 27 January 2025 and Monday 10 March 2025

Book a site visit with a Land Advisor by emailing [ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) with your contact details and one of our Land Advisors will contact you to make a suitable time. Please allow at least a week to ten days to get a land advisor site visit and to compile the information required to finalise your application.

Applications must be accompanied by sufficient supporting information:

- Project cost budget based on quotes provided by relevant suppliers (budget provided by your land advisor).
- Bank account details.
- Project map showing fencing and/or planting areas (map provided by your land advisor).
- A plant list and notes to proposed maintenance of planting (provided by your land advisor).

**Please note, quotes of the proposed work are required for the application to be submitted.**

### Step Two – after the Land Advisor site visit

Once you have had a site visit from one of our land advisors, and have gathered the required information, applications are accepted online from 27 January 2025 until **5pm, Monday 17 March 2025** via the Smarty Grants portal accessed via <https://aucklandcouncil.smartygrants.com.au/MSRF2425>.

## Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be notified via an emailed letter and will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with Auckland Council, which will include terms and conditions.

## Finally, we are here to help!

Any queries about the Fund, please contact us on [ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

For on-going support throughout your application process, including questions regarding completing and uploading your application, please contact the land advisor assigned to you.


**4** email: [ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:ruralwaterways@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

**Essential Freshwater update**  
– regulatory instruments, guidance, publications



Provided to Rural Advisory Panel  
14 February 2025

Andrew Bird and Dave Allen  
Policy department (Policy, Planning and Governance directorate)




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**Purpose of presentation**

Regular update on Essential Freshwater instruments

Today's update focused on:

- Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024
- Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill
  - changes to Part 9A Freshwater Farm Plans.



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