

**Waikato River Clean-up Trust
Funding Strategy**

OCTOBER 2011



Our vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come.



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The Waikato River & its catchment

The Waikato River and its region has been populated for at least the past 700 to 800 years. The river provided physical and spiritual sustenance for large populations of Maaori living along its catchment. Throughout that time it was a source of food, including eels, fish and plants. It was also an important waka route.

A well-known saying about the Waikato River uses taniwha as a metaphor for chiefs: 'Waikato taniwha rau, he piko he taniwha, he piko he taniwha'. (Waikato of a hundred taniwha, on every bend a taniwha). This saying attributes the power and prestige of the Waikato tribes to that of the river.

With the arrival of European settlers in the 1840s and 1850s the Waikato River was the main access route inland for traders and missionaries.

During this time the increasing number of Maaori land sales to the new arrivals was causing concern amongst tribal leadership. In 1858 a number of Maaori chiefs of iwi including Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Tuwharetoa and Raukawa placed their tribal lands under the mana of Waikato-Tainui chief, Pootatau Te Wherowhero, as a guarantee against their sale to the colonial government. Pootatau was proclaimed King of the tribal grouping at his Ngaaruawaahia marae that year. This marked the formation of the Kingitanga movement

However the passage of the New Zealand Settlements Act in 1863 authorised the confiscation of land (raupatu) belonging to any tribe who were judged to have rebelled against the Queen's authority.

The European settlement of Hamilton, which had long been the Maaori settlement of Kirikiriroa, was formally established on 24 August 1864, when Captain William Steele came off the gunboat Rangiriri and established the first military redoubt.

In the wars that followed, some 4,869 sq km of Maaori land was confiscated. While some of that land was later returned to Maaori, the land area finally confiscated totalled 3,596 sq km.

After the land wars, European settlers cleared and developed the land. From the 1880s dairy farming was the main agricultural activity in Waipaa and Waikato areas. Small towns grew near dairy factories. The Waikato River and its tributaries were used for transport and Hamilton, on the Waikato River, became a busy centre of economic activity.

The last hundred years have seen sweeping changes to the region's landscapes and where people have settled, used and created resources.

In the early 20th century, most of the hill country was developed for farming. After World War II more service towns and industries thrived, and small settlements grew around the hydroelectric dam constructions along the Waikato River.

Native timber was logged north and west of Lake Taupo. Pinus radiata planted in the 1920s and 1930s started today's extensive plantation forestry industry. Tokoroa's population more than doubled in the ten years between 1961 and 1971 as people moved to jobs created by the demand for wood products. Many new arrivals were Maaori, as jobs and Government housing policies encouraged Maaori to move to towns and cities.

Government incentives during this period promoted sheep and cattle farming and bush clearing, so more land was put into farms and forestry. Much of this was marginal land and could only be farmed with the use of fertiliser. In the 1970s economic recession, changing markets and automated production of industries meant less employment in the coal and timber industries. The number of people living in Huntly and Tokoroa fell.

In the 1980s, New Zealand's economy was restructured. This meant many industries were deregulated or no longer run by the government. During this time farming subsidies were removed and, as a result, farming had to become more efficient which meant more intensive use was made of the land with increased stocking rates and more application of fertilisers.

Over time, the human activities along the Waikato River and the increasingly intensive land uses through its catchments have degraded the Waikato River and reduced the relationships and aspirations of communities who identify with the Waikato River.

This degradation of the River and its catchment has severely compromised Waikato River Iwi in their ability to exercise kaitiakitanga or conduct their tikanga and kawa.

In 1987 Sir Robert Mahuta and others filed a claim over the Waikato River with the Waitangi Tribunal in order to redress the confiscation of Waikato lands and the consequences of raupatu which impact on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and the relationship of Waikato-Tainui with the Waikato River.

Through the Treaty Settlement process between Waikato-Tainui and the Crown the Guardians Establishment Committee was formed with the support of other Waikato River Iwi. In 2009 the Guardians Establishment Committee finalised its Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River.

That Vision and Strategy to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River has been incorporated in the settlement legislation for the Waikato River Raupatu Claim - the legislation under which The Waikato River Authority is constituted.

The Guardians Establishment Committee’s Vision and Strategy incorporates the objectives sought by Waikato-Tainui and other objectives that reflect the interests of Waikato River Iwi and of all New Zealanders.

These objectives encompass all people of the River and their relationships with it - through their communities, industries, recreation, social and cultural pursuits. It will take commitment and time to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Only by us all working together collaboratively and cooperatively will the Vision be realised.



Large version of this map inside back cover.

1: Background & Context

1.1 The Waikato River Authority and its role

The overarching purpose of the legislation that created the Waikato River Authority and Clean-up Trust is to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment for future generations.

Importantly this enabling legislation (see section 1.3) represents a new era of co-management for the Waikato River and its catchment. This is manifested in a number of ways including the make-up of the Waikato River Authority and the Clean-up Trust – each with five Crown appointees, including a co-chair, and five Waikato River Iwi appointees, including a co-chair.

The purpose of the Waikato River Authority is to:

- set the primary direction through the Vision and Strategy to achieve the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations
- promote an integrated, holistic, and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of the Vision and Strategy and the management of the Waikato River
- fund rehabilitation initiatives for the Waikato River in its role as trustee for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust.

The Waikato River Authority is the sole trustee of the Waikato River Clean-up Trust. The Trust administers and distributes a contestable fund to work towards the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for present and future generations (this forms the Trust's objective). In doing so it must pay adequate regard to the Vision and Strategy and the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study. The Trustees of the Clean-Up Trust determine which projects receive funding.

The area that this Strategy applies to is the Waikato River and its catchment from Huka Falls to Te Puuaha o Waikato and the Waipaa River from its junction with the Puniu River to its junction with the Waikato River as shown in the map on page 5.

1.2 The purpose of this Document

This document forms the initial Funding Strategy for 2011/2012 for the Waikato River Clean-up Trust. It presents the criteria that the Authority believes will best position the Trust to award funds in a fair and consistent manner and for projects that will not only meet the requirements set out in the legislation but most importantly, will lead to the most effective response to the restoration and protection of the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its Catchment.

Priorities are presented both in terms of the geographical areas the Authority believes should draw particular focus from applicants for funding, and also the nature of the projects we believe are a high priority in those areas.

In preparing this Strategy, the Authority has recognised that there will be a range of applications, from very small and short term or one-off projects through to much larger, complex and longer term projects. It is intended that the criteria are flexible enough to provide for a wide range of applicants to seek funds, and that consequently a wide range of projects will be viable. This relationship is shown in Figure 1 on page 8.

Applications for projects that require funding over multiple years will be considered.

The Nga Wai o Maniapoto (Waipaa River) Bill, once enacted, will extend the Trust's area to include the upper Waipaa River catchment.

1.3 The Waikato River Clean-up Fund

The Trust is responsible for administering a Clean-up Fund of \$210m over 30 years. The initial release of funding the Trust has determined that it will make available is up to \$6m. Thereafter the Trust will determine its annual award of funds.

Decisions are based on:

- Applicants meeting the funding criteria;
- Applications being for projects identified as priority areas by the Trust; and
- The quality of the applications received.

The Clean-up Fund is contestable and will seek applications at least once per year depending on the priorities, the funds previously awarded, and the funds available. The Trust may or may not award all or any of the identified funds in a funding round as this will depend on the quality of applications received and the quantity of funding sought by applicants. Where the Trust does not award all available funds it will consider how funds may be applied to future funding rounds.

The timing for the first round of funding is:

- Funding round opens for applications 1 October 2011;
- Funding applications due by 16 December 2011;
- Decisions announced early February 2012; and
- Funds distributed from March 2012

The Trust intends funding a range of projects at different scales and over varying timeframes. The diagram below shows that more projects will be funded at relatively lower levels of funding and that, as the size of funding increases, so will the nature of expectations that will be placed upon successful applicants.

It is intended that the Waikato River Clean-up Trust will review this Funding Strategy after this first funding round.

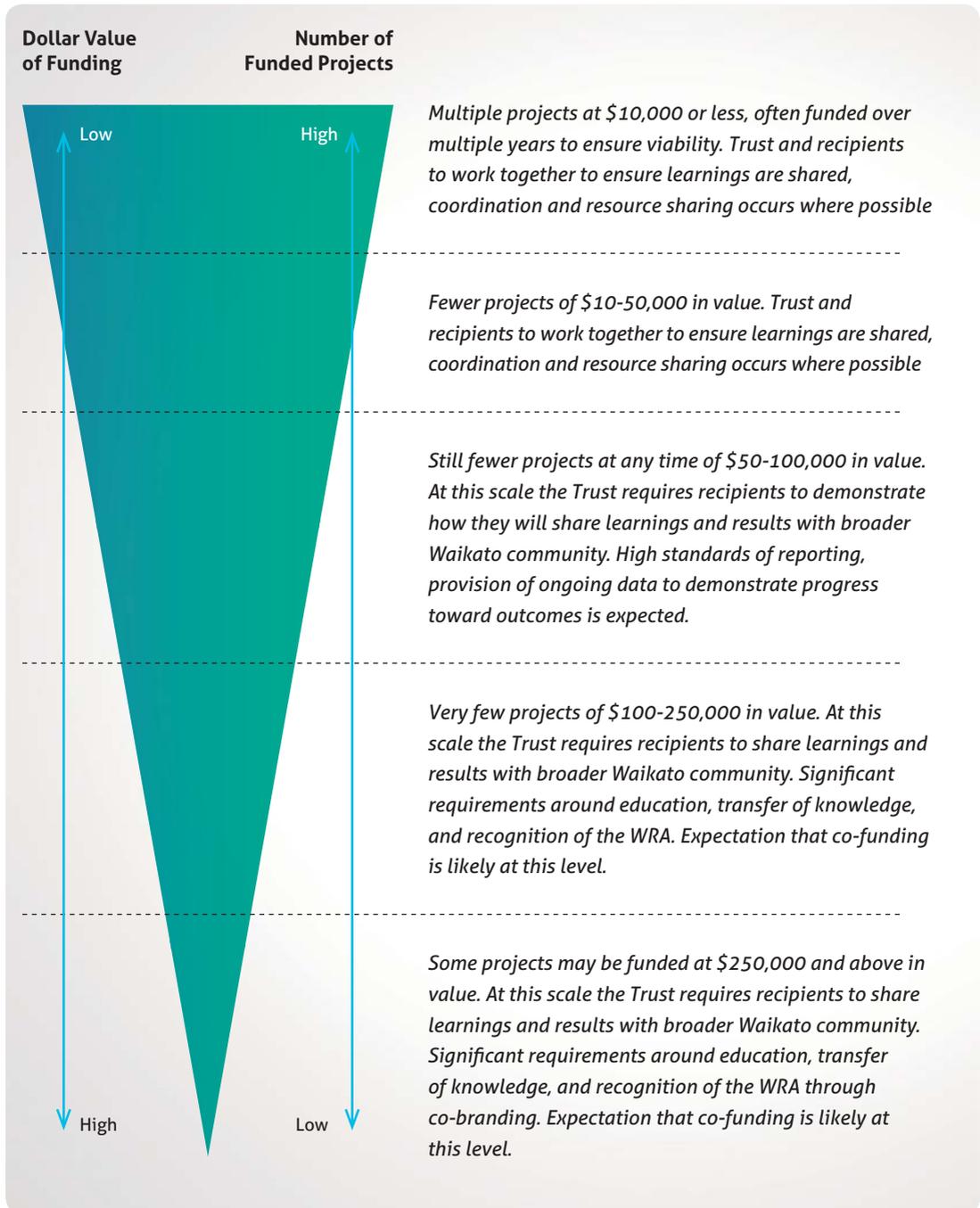
1.4 Background Documents to Support Applications

Applicants may find the following documents useful background in preparing applications:

- The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010
- The Ngati Tuwharetoa, Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Waikato River Act 2010
- The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River
- The Waikato River Independent Scoping Study

These documents are available online at <http://www.waikatoriver.org.nz/news-and-publications/>

1.5 Funding Value Pyramid



2: Criteria for Applicants and Applications

2.1 Criteria for Applicants and Applications

The four key guiding concepts for the Trust are Protect – Restore – Health – Wellbeing. These define much of the criteria for what sort of projects should be funded. The Trust has developed a range of criteria that should guide applicants in considering whether (and how) to prepare an application for funding. Some of these criteria are mandatory (i.e. all applicants must meet them), and others are intended to guide applicants in terms of what the Trust believes to be important.

2.2 Threshold Criteria

The Trust expects that all applications should meet the following broad 'threshold tests' before being considered eligible for funding:

- Projects must be focused on the four key guiding concepts of protecting, restoring, health and wellbeing in relation to the Waikato River and its catchment. Projects must be technically achievable, and applications should clearly demonstrate this. Whilst the Trust will consider funding projects in the absence of full scientific/maatauranga maaori certainty, preference will be given to projects with a high degree of certainty of success.
- All projects must have a positive cost / benefit – that is, the project benefits must be demonstrably greater than the cost of the project. Benefits will be considered fairly across the four wellbeings of cultural, social, environmental and economic (the Trust recognises that not all benefits are able to be readily quantified).
- Applicants must know the outcomes the projects will deliver and have a monitoring framework so it is clear what constitutes 'success'. Project applications must demonstrate how monitoring will occur (e.g. site visits and peer review both during the project and after it is completed).

2.3 Objectives outlined in Legislation

In addition to the threshold criteria above, all applications for projects are required to meet the objectives of the Trust outlined in the legislation and summarised below. These include:

- a) The Trust should not fund a project or a part of a project that another agency would fund (or be likely to fund) in the normal course of its operations if the Trust did not exist;
- b) The Trust seeks efficiency in the allocation and use of funding, including having particular regard to the desirability of applicants using matching or supplemental funding from other sources;
- c) Preference will be given to projects that achieve practical results over projects that are purely for research purposes;
- d) The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to the Vision and Strategy in applications, including clear demonstration of how proposed projects will give effect to the Vision and Strategy;
- e) The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to the report of the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study;
- f) The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to any other relevant research (either within or outside the Waikato Catchment); and
- g) The Trust requires that adequate regard be given to the extent to which projects would further iwi environmental plans, in the case of applications from iwi or applications based on maatauranga Maaori or on the mauri of the Waikato River.

2.4 General Requirements for all Applicants

In addition to each application meeting the criteria outlined above, all prospective applicants must meet the following general criteria:

- *Legal Entity*

Recipients must be a legal entity in New Zealand, and projects over \$10,000 must be GST registered.

- *Trust Indemnified*

If the Trust suffers any loss or damage as a result of any act or omission of a Recipient, its employees, agents or contractors, the Recipient shall fully indemnify the Trust.

- *Deed*

All successful applicants will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Funding Deed (available from www.waikatoriver.org.nz).

2.5 Other Matters for Consideration

The Trust considers it advantageous if projects it funds are related to adjacent or nearby restoration and/or protection projects, and/or builds on existing initiatives.

The Trust recognises set-up costs may be required and these may include research, tools, training and extension programmes.

The Trust encourages applicants for projects to consult with the appropriate Waikato River Iwi who hold mana whenua relevant to the project area.

The 'polluter pays' principle will apply to projects and the Trust will not generally fund a project to address discharges or contamination that are the responsibility of the entity that created them. In exceptional circumstances the Trust may consider funding projects with a high degree of public good on a co-funding basis with polluters.

The Trust encourages and welcomes funding from more than one source to support Trust funded projects. Such funding includes in-kind contributions.

3: Priorities for Funding

3.1 Background

The Trust consulted widely to develop its priority areas and through its networks has drawn on a wide range of sources.

In setting the following priorities the Trust has also given adequate regard to the Waikato River Independent Scoping Study (WRISS). The WRISS was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team of scientists, social scientists, practitioners in maatauranga Maaori, farming systems specialists, economists, engineers and planners. The team was led by NIWA. The WRISS was commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment, and the Waikato River Guardians Establishment Committee was the governance group.

The key purpose of the WRISS was to provide the Crown and Waikato River Iwi with a sound and objective basis on which to make decisions about the priority actions required to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River for future generations.

Many projects are likely to be of a nature and scale that will require cooperation and collaboration with other groups, including: community groups, local government, iwi authorities, QEII Trust, Department of Conservation, land trusts and industry groups. The Trust also encourages smaller scale projects that provide solutions at a sub-catchment level, particularly where such projects will provide learnings for future funding of larger scale projects.

Priorities for funding fall into six areas. The first three areas are applicable throughout the catchment:

Specific projects that support Maatauranga Maaori are identified below in 3.2. However Maatauranga Maaori may be supported in any of the project funding areas outlined below and, where appropriate, this should be acknowledged.

Maatauranga Maaori is usually used to mean 'Maaori knowledge' – distinctive knowledge created by Maaori in history and arising from their living circumstances, their world view and their experiences. From this perspective, one might think of a basket in which a wide range of knowledge items can be found (whakapapa, koorero, waiata etc.). The name of the basket itself is 'Maatauranga Maaori'. Hence, these terms are used to circumscribe the totality of the knowledge and knowing created by Maaori of the past. Maatauranga Maaori can also refer to, usually, sacred and specialised knowledge that was not the preserve of the common population but rather it was known by initiated experts only.

Maatauranga Maaori is a relevant and significant 'way of knowing' implemented by tangata whenua that will add value to the restoration of the Waikato River and its catchment. Projects that either use Maatauranga as a way of understanding and finding solutions to the issues facing the Waikato River, or seek to restore and reinvigorate traditional knowledge to maintain the relationship between the River and its Iwi are an essential part of using knowledge to achieve the vision and strategy.

The Clean Up Trust encourages applications that recognise the important contribution of Maatauranga Maaori to the clean-up of the Waikato River and its catchment. Projects that work to reinvigorate the relationship of the Waikato River Iwi and the Waikato River will be especially supported. Projects may include a range of key themes including, but not limited to;

- The improvement of the health and well-being of the Waikato River through the practice and implementation of Kaitiakitanga by its Iwi;
- The collection and dissemination of traditional knowledge relating to the Waikato River and its Iwi; and
- The development of tools and models that are based on Maatauranga Maaori which improve the health and well-being of the Waikato River.

3.2 Projects that support maatauranga maaori

These may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Development of cultural health indexes;
- Creation of knowledge centres / databases;
- Traditional relationships with the environment including maatauranga maaori;
- Access, protection, enhancement, and use of sites of significance;
- Development of heritage protection inventories;
- Development of environmental management plans/strategies as they relate to the Waikato River and its catchment;
- Projects related to restoring or protecting sites associated with taonga, for example, kohanga sites for inanga spawning;
- Development of cultural markers that signify significant sites or boundaries for iwi, eg pouwhenua;
- Extension programmes, templates, and other tools that help support restoration and protection initiatives; and
- Projects that seek to acknowledge or work with both maatauranga maaori and western science in improving the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchment.

3.3 Projects that have a community outcome associated with the Waikato River and its catchment

These may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Social science projects such as landowner education and awareness outreach programmes designed to change behaviours;
- Community catchment care groups; and
- Support for and liaison between environmental groups.

3.4 Projects that help the Trust monitor the effectiveness of funded projects

These may include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- The development of a report card approach as identified in the WRISS.
- Frameworks that support applicants to monitor the effectiveness of individual projects.
- Frameworks that support the Trust to monitor the effectiveness of individual projects; and
- Frameworks that support the Trust at a macro-scale (say over 30 years) to determine how best the Trust's objectives can be achieved.

The above three priority areas apply throughout the catchment and may be stand-alone projects and/or may be in combination with any other identified priority area. For example projects that support maatauranga maaori include the priorities identified under that heading and these may also be incorporated in projects that focus on other identified areas.

The following three priority areas are geographically based.

3.5 Above the Karapiro Dam to the Huka Falls

Priorities for Trust funding for this area include projects that address:

- Biodiversity improvement, including riparian margins;
- Larger riparian setbacks along the river and feeder streams, riparian planting and fencing;
- Wetland restoration, protection and recreation;
- Protecting diversity of natural landscapes;
- Catchment management plans and committees;
- Protection and restoration of native fisheries and their habitats;
- Management of heavy metal accumulation in sediments; and
- Improving access to the River and development of river trails.

3.6 Karapiro Dam to the mouth of the Waikato River

Priorities for Trust funding for this area include projects that address:

- Improving connectivity between different parts of the ecosystem (both the Waipaa and Waikato rivers, feeder streams and lowland lakes), including between pump stations, culverts and the like. Physical / chemical conditions are reliant on connectivity, and many native species require access to areas they cannot currently reach;
- Management of drainage canals and other linkages between water bodies (for example at Lake Whangape and other similar lakes to improve habitat), including projects that involve planting native flora, and creating sinuosity in canals;
- Habitat enhancement at lakes such as Opuate and Whangape;
- Revegetation of inanga spawning sites, including artificial habitat in the short term until native vegetation re-establishes. Projects may also consider changing hydrology through removal of some tide gates to allow migration of inanga;
- Forested headwater stream projects including fencing, planting and improving connectivity with a view to improving the diversity of habitat; and
- Flushing of small lakes to clear macroflora and reduce nutrient loads. Reintroduction of macrophytes.

3.7 The Waipaa River

The primary environmental issues are sedimentation and microbe contamination. Projects in this area will focus on revegetation and riparian protection.

This will include projects that lead to outcomes such as:

- Larger riparian setbacks along the river and feeder streams, riparian planting and fencing;
- Land retirement / afforestation of severely eroding land, including hill planting, plantation forestry, and carbon forestry;
- Biodiversity (protection / restoration of valuable habitats);
- Wetland protection and restoration; and
- Detailed modelling of sediment sources (forest and non-forest) to clearly identify where the priority areas are, and allow clarity of 'before and after' intervention scenarios.

4: Information Requirements

4.1 Information Requirements and Priorities to Guide Applicants

All applications for funding should contain the following information:

Objectives of the Proposed Project

- What are the benefits, where will it occur, what is involved, when / how long will it take, what is the benefit of the project?
- How will it contribute to the goals of the Vision and Strategy?
- Outcomes of the Proposed Project.
- Identify the specific outcomes that the project will deliver.

Scope

- Identify both what is in, and out, of scope.

Proposed Approach

- Identify the proposed approach to successful implementation, including major workstreams and tasks, milestones and deliverables (with dates).
- Identify approach to monitoring and reporting, both during and after the project is completed.

Personnel

- Identify the proposed team and their respective roles, including any subcontractors.
- How the Proposed Project will meet the Strategic Goals of the Trust.
- Identify how the project will meet the goals of the Trust as set out in the Trust Strategy [to be added once confirmed].

Fit with Trust Criteria

- Identify how the criteria for the Trust are met, as outlined in the Trust Criteria at www.waikatoriver.org.nz.
For any criteria that the application fails to meet, explain which criteria are not met, and why.

Costs

- Provide a breakdown of the estimated costs of the proposed project, clearly linking costs to the various workstreams and milestones in the proposal. Identify any matching or supplemental funds that are to be provided by other agencies.

Risks and Mitigation

- Identify major risks and proposed mitigation measures that will ensure the project is successfully delivered to time, cost, and quality requirements as outlined in the proposal.

Previous Experience

- Provide a synopsis of the organisation's relevant experience for the proposed project. Provide a synopsis of the proposed teams' relevant experience, including CV's where appropriate. This should include all sub contractors.

Referees

- Provide the contact details for two referees who will be able to comment on the quality of relevant work you have undertaken (both as an organisation and for individuals within the organisation).

Application Form

- The application form can be downloaded from our website www.waikatoriver.org.nz

Map of the Waikato River Clean-Up Trust area

