

Guideline for MGI Irrigation Environmental Management Fund Proposals

1. Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to help you complete an application form for the MGI Environmental Management Fund. Following these guidelines will assist you in providing the necessary information to allow assessment of your application.

If you have any problems completing your application, please contact MGI Irrigation via email (judith@mgiirrigation.co.nz). Incomplete applications make it difficult to assess and potentially fund your project.

2. What is the Environmental Fund?

Waihao Downs Irrigation was granted resource consent CRC164368 and condition 13 (O) (i-v) requires that Waihao Downs Irrigation establish a fund for the purpose of mitigating Scheme effects and/or environmental enhancement.

Priority is given to the proposals within the Scheme area, though consideration will be given to proposals within the wider Waihao/Wainono and Morven/Glenavy catchments.

3. What is the purpose of the Fund?

The Environmental Management Fund has been established for the purpose of mitigating adverse effects of the operation of the Scheme (not required or covered by Farm Environment Plans, Resource Consents or Regional/sub-regional Plan rules).

The Fund will be used to assist groups and individuals in the Scheme area, or areas affected by the Scheme, to undertake maintenance, restoration and improvement projects, or activities.

Proposals for consideration by the Fund should contribute toward Scheme shareholders' environmental enhancement proposals within the Scheme area, or area affected by the Scheme.

4. Who can apply?

Eligible applicants must reside or operate in the Lower Waitaki catchments zone (though priority will be given to applicants within the Scheme area), and may include:

- Private land owners and managers;

- Professional and community based organisations working on sustainable land and water management or on protecting and managing indigenous biodiversity;
- Local, regional and national umbrella groups

5. What type of funding is available?

Proposals will be considered by the Environmental Management Fund Panel. This is an independent panel established by MGI Irrigation. The Panel may make a partial or full allocation dependant on their assessment.

6. What type of projects are eligible for funding?

Priority for the distribution and use of the Fund shall be provided to environmental mitigation projects that are not otherwise required by the individual Farm Management Plans or specific consent conditions. Proposals will be judged on the extent to which they will contribute to maintaining and enhancing environmental management. Applications for funding shall be for the following types of projects:

- Physical protection of, stock exclusion from, and indigenous vegetation planting along riparian margins of rivers and streams;
- Wetland enhancement and wetland creation, including the development of wetlands along intermittent streams;
- Permanent protection of wetland areas that could contain mudfish;
- Reduction or mitigation of hill country erosion and sediment runoff, provided that the intended use of the land involved is not for agricultural purposes;
- Projects for the enhancement of farmer's own properties, that are not directly covered by Farm Environment Plan requirements, may be eligible for up to 50% levy rebate provided that the project can demonstrate environmental benefits;
- Mitigation response to adverse environmental effects of scheme construction or operation;
- Identification and mitigation of critical source areas, spring heads and other high risk areas that may disproportionately contribute to a decrease in water quality (i.e. by contributing sediment and/or phosphorus);
- Complement landowner contributions and leverage contributions from other sources

7. How do I apply to the Environmental Management Fund?

You can apply to the fund all year round, however funding applications close by 31 May each year. Proposals can be submitted electronically via email to the following address:

judith@mgiirrigation.co.nz

Alternatively, hard copy Proposals can be posted to:

MGI Irrigation
26 Glenavy-Tawai Road
RD 10 Glenavy
WAIMATE 7980

Proposal are to be submitted annually prior to 31 May.

It is recommended that you contact MGI Irrigation before applying.

8. How are Applications assessed?

It is expected that more proposals will be submitted than there is funding available. To ensure fairness and transparency, an assessment system is used to choose which projects are funded.

All applicants may be asked to be interviewed and/or the Panel may request a site visit to understand and asses the details of the proposal.

After proposals are assessed by the Panel, successful applicants will be notified within six weeks. The Panel reserves the right to accept or decline proposals with not rights of appeal or review.

9. If you are successful

There are several requirements placed upon successful proposals. A Funding Agreement must be signed and the terms and any conditions contained therein must be complied with, such as reporting on the project outcomes and key results.