



Natural Heritage Fund 2026/27

18 June 2026

[waikatoregion.govt.nz](https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz)

Natural Heritage Fund - Overview

- Established in 2005
- Supports community led, collaborative projects
- Long term, landscape scale, intergenerational ecological benefits
- Funding policy reviewed and approved in 2024



Funding Process

Step 1 – Assessment of applications

Step 2 – Moderation panel convenes

Step 3 – ICMC Funding Decisions

Step 3a – ICMC Funding Decision – with additional information



ICMC 27 May 2026 – Meeting Summary

- \$2,021,122 available for distribution
- Considered six applications
 - Funded three projects
 - Declined two projects
 - Deferred decision on MEIT to Council, pending additional information
- Allocated - \$758,816
- Put into the NHF reserve - \$122,006
- Unallocated - \$1,140,300
- Total available to allocate **\$1,262,306**



Photo: Ian Preece

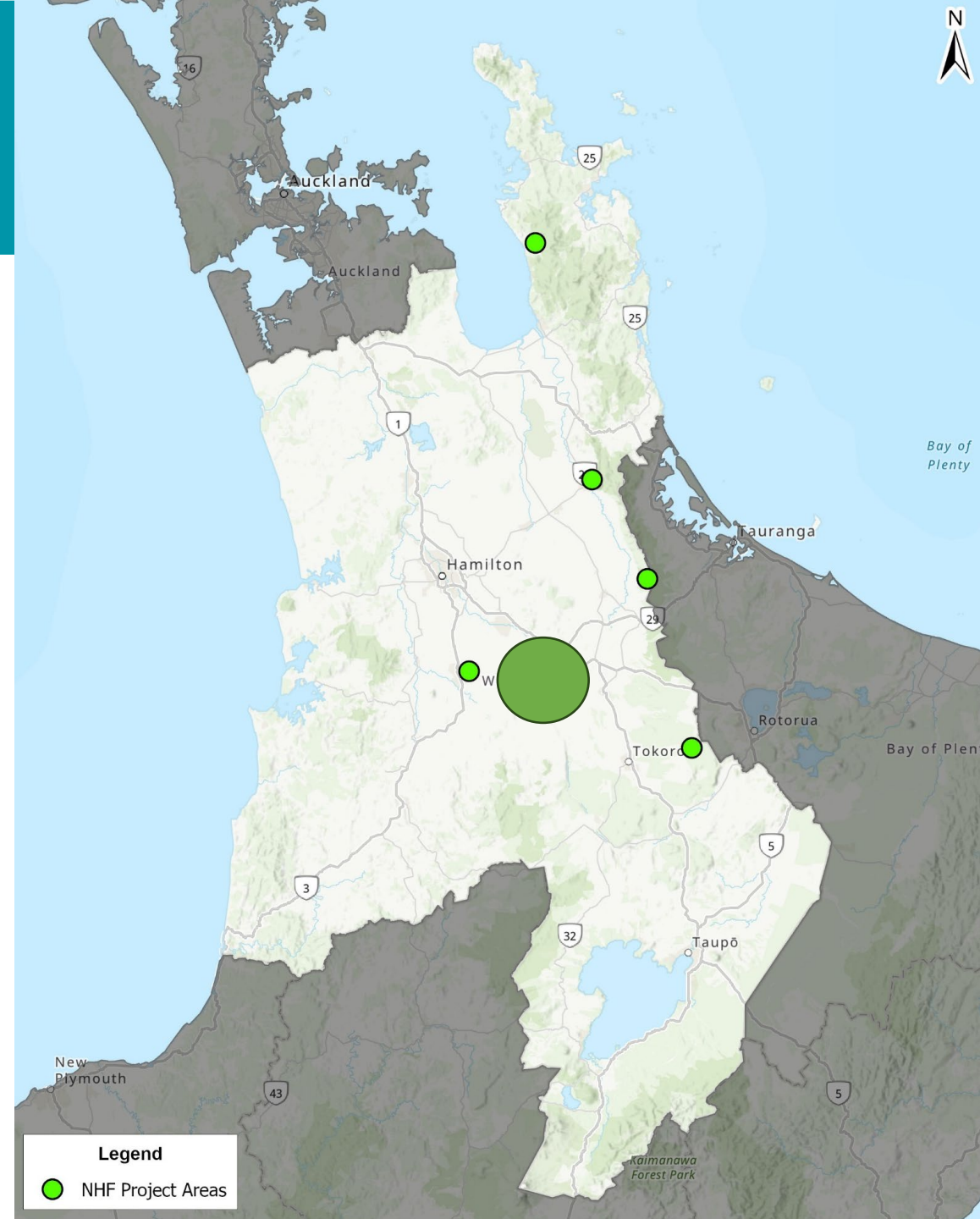
Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust

Project: Maungatautari – the seed source of biodiversity and community well-being

Funding requested for:

- Staff labour – operational delivery of the threatened species management programme, maintaining the pest-proof sanctuary and delivering their environmental education programme
- Materials – threatened species management, fence breach responses and repairs

Applicant Requested: \$1,736,229 (3 years)



Funding options

Request/Recommendation	Year 1 (2026/27)	Year 2 (2027/28)	Year 3 (2028/29)	Total funding
<i>Requested</i>	<i>\$561,724</i>	<i>\$578,576</i>	<i>\$595,929</i>	<i>\$1,736,229</i>
Option 1 – Recommendation as presented to ICMC	\$561,724	\$578,576	\$0	\$1,140,300
Option 2 – Proposed motion drafted at ICMC (modified)	\$395,120	\$407,369	\$419,997	\$1,222,486