

Natural and Cultural Heritage Incentive Fund Guide 2008

You may be interested in this guide if you own or manage a property which is listed in the Palmerston North City District Plan as a building/object/ site of heritage value. The Natural and Cultural Incentive Fund is also a source of funding for heritage related research, education and promotion initiatives

Purpose of the Fund

Pre and post European settlement in Palmerston North has provided a legacy of cultural and natural heritage that is of value to both Maori and non-Maori. The identification and conservation of places and features (e.g. trees/vegetation/buildings/objects/sites) provides the community with a sense of continuity and identity.

Who can apply?

- Owners of listed buildings, sites, objects or trees.
- Rangitaane Iwi
- Non-profit incorporated heritage groups/organisations
- Specialist heritage places conservation/management bodies.

The Palmerston North City District Plan (Chap. 17) contains specific rules to encourage the active protection and management of natural and cultural heritage in the City. Lists of heritage buildings, objects and notable trees are included in Chapter 17.

The Council recognises that the successful implementation of heritage policy needs to address the additional responsibility that these places can impose on their owners. The Natural and Cultural Incentive Fund provides *targeted financial assistance to property owners and other relevant parties* to address this situation and acknowledge community interest in heritage listed private property.

The primary targets of the incentive fund are:

- Heritage conservation work.
- Heritage research, education and promotion initiatives.
- Earthquake prone heritage buildings.
- Notable trees.

These areas for funding are explained in more detail below.

Targets of the Incentive Fund

Buildings/Objects/Sites listed in the District Plan

Applications for funding for projects (maintenance, repair, restoration) on listed heritage are invited once per year by public notice. Grants are 50% of the cost of approved works up to a maximum of:

- commercial properties \$10,000
- community properties (not subject to rates) \$10,000
- residential properties \$5,000
- conservation asset management plans \$5,000

To apply for funding applicants should fill out a Natural & Cultural Incentive Fund application form (www.pncc.govt.nz). Applicants are required to submit photographs of the building, object, or site detailing the proposed work.

To be eligible for funding the property must be privately owned; listed in the District Plan or Historic Places Trust register of buildings/objects/sites; and, must have council/historic places trust approvals. The work must also have input from a qualified heritage professional.

Definitions

Maintenance – the protective care of a place.

Repair – making good decayed or damaged material.

Restoration – returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state by reassembly, reinstatement and/or removal of extraneous additions

Stabilisation – the arrest of the process of decay

Projects will be assessed against several criteria:

- the place must either be listed or proposed to be listed as building, object or site of cultural heritage value in the Palmerston North District Plan;
- the property is privately owned (not owned or occupied by the Crown);
- the proposed work has all necessary Council and/or Historic Places Trust approvals;
- the contribution that the proposed work will make to the ongoing conservation and/or retention of the building, object or site;
- the urgency of the work;
- the degree to which the exhibits sound heritage management planning (ie. input from a qualified heritage professional);
- the extent to which the proposed work conforms with the principles and processes set out in the ICOMOS (NZ) Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value.
- the degree to which the applicant is financially contributing to the project.
- the financial and project management capacity of the applicant;
- the amount of money available in the fund at any particular time and the need for equitable distribution.

If an application is successful all work must be carried out and completed within one year, and invoiced to council by 30th June. Funding will be released following confirmation of the approved work and authentication of expenditure.

Earthquake Prone Heritage Buildings

If a building is identified on council's list of buildings requiring earthquake strengthening and is listed in the District Plan Schedule of Buildings & Objects of Cultural Heritage Value (or is identified as having streetscape value) then assistance for upgrades can be provided. Funds are available up to a maximum of \$14,000 per building:

- Feasibility study - \$4,000 max.
- Working Drawings - \$10,000 max.
- Funds may also be available for structural works

Council will liaise with building owners and discuss options for an approach to upgrade. If no mutually acceptable plan can be agreed upon, council may serve notice for upgrade or demolition.

A council approved registered engineer, qualified in structural engineering is used to carry out the feasibility study and to produce working drawings. Council will retain the feasibility study and working drawings.

If an application is successful all work must be carried out and completed within one year, and invoiced to council by 30th June. Funding will be released following confirmation of the approved work and authentication of expenditure.

Heritage Education/Promotion

Applications for heritage education/promotion projects will be invited once a year by public notice. These may be projects which identify and document places of potential cultural heritage value in the city; research the history of the links between people and PN; or, educate or inform the public of the cultural heritage resources that exist in the city.

Funds available are 50% of an approved project up to a maximum of \$5,000. Applications should be made using a Natural & Cultural Incentive Fund application form (www.pncc.govt.nz).

Projects will be assessed against several criteria:

- Extent of improved opportunities for wider public appreciation of PN's heritage resources.
- Degree of assistance it will give to educating the public in methods/techniques to maintain and enhance PN's heritage resources.
- How the project extends knowledge of the historical connection/relationship between an individual/family/group/culture and PN.
- Financial contribution of the applicant
- Financial and project management capacity of the applicant
- Funds available in the Natural & Cultural Incentive Fund with respect to equitable distribution.

If an application is successful all work must be carried out and completed within one year, and invoiced to council by 30th June. Funding will be released following confirmation of the approved work and authentication of expenditure.

Notable Trees Incentive Strategy

Owners of property with a notable tree/group of trees (i.e. listed in District Plan Schedule of Buildings & Objects of Cultural Heritage Value) located on it can apply for 70% of invoiced maintenance costs to be reimbursed up to:

- Individual trees - \$400 max.
- Groups of trees - \$1,500 max.

The owner should obtain two quotes from Council preferred contractors and contact the council. Maintenance records and predicted maintenance requirements of the notable trees are available from the council. After lodging an application to undertake identified maintenance work (of a more than minor nature), a non-notified resource consent will be issued (2-3 days). On receipt of the consent, work can commence. The tree owner should pay the contractor the full amount and the Council will reimburse the tree-owner once proof of payment is supplied.

Note: only use of council preferred contractors is eligible for funding.

Funding Priorities

Priority will generally be given to projects on listed buildings, objects or sites which meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Urgent work to avert a threat
- Publicly accessible or visible
- Documentation to prioritise action required to conserve or manage (e.g. asset management plans)
- Essential maintenance, repair or stabilisation
- Public education/promotion of the City's cultural heritage resources.

For unlisted buildings, objects or sites:

- Documentation which helps to establish the heritage significance of the buildings, objects or sites.

Contact details

For advice and technical questions related to Heritage buildings, sites or objects contact:

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For questions related to Notable Trees contact:

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For questions related to applications for funding contact:

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