

Whenua Māori Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Whenua Māori Fund and why was it established?

A. The Whenua Māori Fund is one part of a wider programme of work to give Māori landowners more say on what they do with their whenua, and access to tools to assist them. The Whenua Māori Fund focuses on initiatives that grow the economic performance of Māori Freehold land.

Q. How do I make an application to the Whenua Māori Fund?

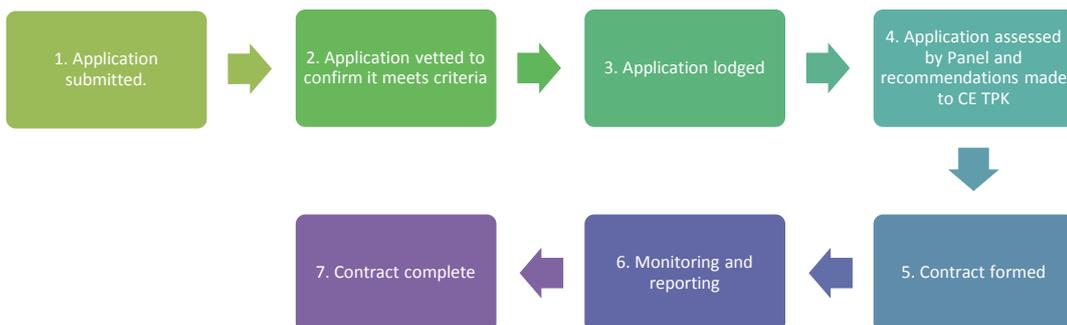
A. Contact Te Puni Kōkiri who manages the fund on:

Phone 0800 200 410
Fax 04 819 6299
Email whenuamaorifund@tpk.govt.nz
Post Te Puni Kōkiri P O Box Wellington 6140

Q. Who decides whether proposals are approved for funding?

A. A Review Panel will make recommendations on the funding proposals to the Te Puni Kōkiri Chief Executive. It is envisaged that in due course the Whenua Māori Fund will be administered by the Māori Land Service. In the interim it is being administered by Te Puni Kōkiri.

The diagram below sets out the funding cycle under the Whenua Māori Fund.



Q. If a proposal is approved how will the funds be distributed?

A. Once an application has been approved, a contract will be generated and funds will be distributed through agreed milestone achievements.

Q. Is there a cap on funding for proposals?

A. There is not presently a cap on how much funding a successful project might receive but, consideration will be given to how the fund might be fairly distributed throughout the country and across a range of projects e.g. tourism, geothermal and land developments.

Q. How does the Whenua Māori Fund relate to other assistance Te Puni Kōkiri provides?

A. Te Puni Kōkiri provides a range of information to help trustees and directors of Māori organisations with their responsibilities and role as guardians and leaders.

More information on work Te Puni Kōkiri undertakes across government and the private sector to support Māori development can be found online at:

<http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/whakamahia/>

Q. How does the Whenua Māori Fund differ from funding available from other Government departments?

A. The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment oversees Te Pūnaha Hiringa: Māori Innovation Fund. This fund has \$2 million per year available to assist Māori collectives gain understanding and knowledge to realise the economic potential of their assets and to increase the skill and knowledge of Maori collectives. The Fund can also help collectives to engage more effectively with the wider enterprise development and innovation systems. It comprises two schemes:

- Commercial Advisors Scheme
- Governance and Management Development Scheme.

For more details on Te Pūnaha Hiringa: Māori Innovation Fund visit <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/science-innovation/investment-funding/maori-innovation-fund>

The Ministry for Primary Industries provides assistance to landowners by a number of means, including:

- *The Sustainable Farming Fund* which invests in applied research and projects led by farmers, growers, or foresters. For more details on the Sustainable Farming Fund and how to apply visit <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/farming/sustainable-farming-fund/>; and
- *Māori Agribusiness: Pathway to Increased Productivity programme* which aims to partner with Māori to overcome some of the unique challenges you face when developing primary sector assets. The programme has a specific focus on Māori primary sector assets (agriculture, horticulture, forestry, or seafood) that are in collective ownership. For more details on the Māori Agribusiness: Pathway to Increased Productivity programme and how to apply visit <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/maori-in-the-primary-industries/maori-agribusiness/>.

Q. Is this just doing the same thing as other funds e.g in MPI and MBIE?

A. No, the Whenua Māori Fund is particularly focused on improving the productivity of whenua Māori across a range of opportunities focussing on customised interventions. Other funds have a more defined scope e.g. Te Pūnaha Hiringa: Māori Innovation Fund focusses on Commercial Advice and Governance training.

Q. Does the Whenua Maori Fund provide funding to Pākehā?

A. There are a number of mainstream funding programmes administered by government agencies. The Whenua Māori Fund is specifically for owners of Māori Freehold Land who have unique challenges to deal with in regard to managing and developing their whenua than owners of general titled land.

Q. How are you going to allocate \$3.2 million for the 2015/2016 year?

A. Work is already happening. There are five priority regions under the Governments Regional Economic Development Programme, two of those regions have launched their Regional Economic Action Plans and two more regions are in advanced stages of preparing their Regional Economic Action Plan for release. Utilisation of Māori resources is featured heavily in all regions. Plans will be used to identify potential projects for funding from the Whenua Māori Fund.

The fund is not limited to the five priority regions. Te Puni Kōkiri staff are available to engage with landowners and their representatives throughout the country.

We will endeavour to get the entire \$3.2 Million contracted in the current financial year. If any funds are not spent in the current financial year, we will seek to move them to next financial year.

Q. The Whenua Māori Fund is quite modest. Are you going to be picking winners with this fund? What happens to the people who don't get any funding?

A. No. Applications to the Whenua Māori Fund will be judged on merit and state of readiness. The purpose of the Whenua Māori Fund is to assist landowners who have aspirations for their whenua and their people.

Q. Why is the Whenua Māori Fund being launched when Te Ture Whenua Māori Bill has not been passed?

A. The Whenua Māori Fund is part of a wider work programme to give Māori landowners more say on what they do with their land, and access to tools to assist them. It is a stand-alone fund that can operate now by assisting landowners who are ready to progress their aspirations.

Q. Why are you focusing on landowners that are already doing commercial things on their land – what about the people who haven't even got out of the starting blocks with development?

The Whenua Māori Fund is part of a wider work programme to give Māori landowners more say on not only 'what' is possible for your whenua but 'how' it can be done, as well as access to tools to assist you.

Q. How can I get more information on the Whenua Māori Fund?

A. By contacting Te Puni Kōkiri who manages the fund on:

Phone 0800 200 410

Fax 04 819 6299

Email whenuamaorifund@tpk.govt.nz

Post Te Puni Kōkiri P O Box Wellington 6140