



29 September 2021

9(2)(a)

OIAD-92

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2021 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I wish to make an Official Information Act request in relation to funding applications made on North Canterbury Māori Reserve Totoroa 895 title reference CB169/95

In particular, I want a copy of all funding applications and correspondence regarding Ministry for the Environment supported work happening on the 14 hectare block in North Canterbury.

In particular I want copies of correspondence re Totoroa mentioning:

- *Cherie Tirikatene*
- *Kakano Ltd*
- *Sam Judd*
- *Nigel Harris*
- *Trustees in Totoroa Reserve 895*
- *He Pito Mata Ltd*
- *Seed New Zealand Charitable Trust*

The Ministry for the Environment has identified twelve documents in scope of your request, as listed in the attached document schedule. Some information within these documents has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
- 9(2)(g)(i) To maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- 9(2)(j) To enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Lorena Stephen
Director – Policy Implementation and Delivery

Document schedule

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1		Expressions of Interest – 2020 Freshwater Improvement Fund Round 3	Release in part	s9(2)(a); s9(2)(b)(ii)
2	11 Feb 2021	Fwd: EOI – Fresh Water Improvement Fund Round 3	Release in part	s9(2)(a)
3		Expressions of Interest – 2020 Freshwater Improvement Fund Round 3 – Revised	Release in part	s9(2)(a); s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)
4	10 Feb 2021	Seed NZ	Release in part	s9(2)(a)
5	3 Feb 2021	Depart of Corrections – Letter of support	Release in part	s9(2)(a); s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)
6	10 Feb 2021	Te Mahere Whakauka/The Hope Project	Release in part	s9(2)(a)
7	23 Dec 2020	Torotoroa Reserve 895 Ahu Whenua Trust – Letter of support	Release in part	s9(2)(a); s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)
8	31 Jan 2021	Te Maire Tau – Letter of support	Release in part	s9(2)(a)
9	21 July 2021	A call received on the Freshwater Investments Team phone, from a caller raising concern about an applicant and/or application to FIF Round 3	Release in part	s9(2)(a); s9(2)(f)(iv)
10	7 May 2021	RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FIF Round 3 application	Release in part	s9(2)(a); s9(2)(g)(i)

11	9 Aug 2021	[COMMERCIAL]FW: Freshwater Improvement Fund EOI Outcome	Release in part	s9(2)(a)
12	1 April 2021	Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) expression of interest application: FIF3178	Release in part	s9(2)(a)

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Freshwater Improvement Fund

Expressions of Interest - 2020 Freshwater Improvement Fund Round 3

Key points: When using this form, please press tab to move to the next area to complete.

Text boxes have word limits placed on them, please follow the guidance indicated against each section.

SECTION A: Applicant details

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the Official Information Act 1982

1. Organisation name	Seed New Zealand
2. Legal entity status:	Registered Charitable trust
3. Physical address:	9 Isaac Wilson Road, Kaiapoi, 7630
4. NZBN (or Trust; Charity; Inc. Society registration #):	CC54256
5. GST number:	121280515
Primary contact	
6. Name of contact person:	Cherie Tirikatene
7. Organisation:	Seed New Zealand
8. Phone number:	s9(2)(a)
9. Email address:	Cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a)

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SECTION B: Project details

10. Project name	Ngā Kaitiaki o te awa Kowai me te repo Torotoroā Restoration Project
<p>11. Project purpose</p> <p><i>This should be a brief description of the problem your project is trying to solve, your solution, and outcome your project will achieve.</i></p> <p><i>You will have the opportunity to expand on this description later in this form.</i></p>	<p>The Ahu Whenua Trust is responsible for titles Torotoroa Reserve 895. This is a Fenton reserve which was established for mahinga kai purposes in 1870.</p> <p>The Trust intends to establish native forestry, enhance biodiversity, develop an education hub and restore mahinga kai values over the 25 ha block as a case study for which we have a detailed restoration plan that will enable the development of a Māori-led enterprise to meet demand in the Otautahi/Canterbury region and deliver 'Broader Outcomes' for procurement.</p> <p>Further sites have already been identified, including the Tawera land block (which has a rare Kahiktea stand and nationally-critical Canterbury mudfish), Waimaia (another Fenton Reserve seeking to re-establish Mahinga Kai), the Red Zone restoration and Te Kākahu Kahukura.</p> <p>We will work with an array of established partners to provide specialist advice and support. This includes a pathways to self-sufficiency, using the proven enterprise models of Pūniu River Care and Pourewā.</p>
12. Region <i>Select all that apply.</i>	Canterbury

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13. Details of water body(s):

(500 character limit)

Please provide the latitude and longitude in decimal format (eg, -36.631389, 175.473361). If your project has multiple sites, please choose the most significant or relevant site.

The Leithfield site is in the Kowai River Catchment. It is dominated by 3 broad landform types that run parallel to the - eastern undulating sand dune ridge recently logged of pines; central dune swale dominated by sedgeland, herb field and rushes; and sand flats.

The western sand flats are significant ephemeral drainage areas.

It is a 'Fenton Reserve' - which was returned for the purposes of Mahinga Kai. There is a protocol with Rūnanga, the Trust and Department of Conservation to bury dead whales from the Pegasus Bay Coastal area at this site due to its significance.



Latitude:
X:1579120.3134

Longitude:
Y:5215976.0927

14. What issues does this water body face?

(1000 character limit)

The wetland at the Kowai River Mouth [is often dry](#). It is estimated that over 50% of the previous wetland extent has been lost due to [drainage and pasture development](#). Stock have access and 90% of vegetation is introduced.

In the Canterbury region the issues are immense. [More than half of the drinking water sites tested](#) contained Nitrogen levels that increase cancer risk. [Seven of the Hurunui's 19 water supply schemes are on permanent boil notices](#).

Loss of indigenous habitat has been extensive, particularly in lowland areas. Waterways have been significantly modified and [less than 10% of the region's wetlands remain](#).

Tourism jobs are 'keenly' threatened by climate change. Ongoing intensification 'pose(s) threats to the waterways'. Lower altitude ecosystems (such as Torotoroa) are 'under-represented' in public conservation areas and have seen '[the almost total loss of indigenous ecosystems and species](#).'

Harmful [Cyanobacteria blooms in Canterbury rivers and lakes are common](#).

There is significant demand for native seedlings and planting teams that are interwoven with cultural best practice, but there are no organisations that have the capacity to meet this demand.

15. How will your project address these issues?
(1000 character limit)

We will establish a nursery and facility to enable training and education of vulnerable Māori to become kaitiaki of the area. Planting will commence alongside the nursery which will develop our rangatahi to obtain the necessary skills and capacity to meet the demand for restoration in Canterbury.

By investing in monitoring and evaluation early, we will be able to realise benefits environmentally, socially, culturally and economically through this project.

The early case study at Torotoroa will create a path for the enterprise to deliver nature-based solutions into the future.



16. Where applicable, highlight the outputs this project will produce related to Jobs for Nature

Focus area	Metric	Target
Freshwater restoration	Number of plants planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas	100,000 over the case study site with 15000 ready to plant in July which we have already invested into. Total of 900,000 across 3 years
	Area (ha) of riparian, lake, or wetlands planting completed	10 at case study site with 90 the total area planted over the duration of the project
	Length (km) of new fencing constructed and maintenance of existing fencing	2 km wetland protection and rabbit proofed at case study site

	On farm and other restoration activities	Number of Farm Environment Plans completed	1 restoration plan with the intent to create a Farm Environment Plan
	Pest control and fish passage	Total area (ha) of animal pest control completed	25ha at case study site - 105ha total.
		Total area (ha) of plant pest control completed	25ha at case study site - 105ha total.
		Number of fish passage barriers remediated (removed or managed)	0
	Other <i>Note - Feel free to add other project outputs (200 characters limit per output)</i>	Other output	Direct impact of Mahinga Kai incorporated into restoration strategy, measurable knowledge improvement in Tikanga Māori and regional history, important historical site restored.
		Other output	20 jobs for vulnerable Māori, including at least 5 recently released prisoners from Christchurch Mens. Training outcomes in line with the strategies that have been successful at Puniu River Care and Ngati Whatua O Orakei Whaia Maia.
		Other output	Verified positive social impact measured in collaboration with a network of 26 Māori led enterprises within the Te Mahere Whakauka network.
		Other output	Biodiversity improvement data from birdsong monitors and pest control data from thermal cameras.
		Other output	Educational resources developed to be open-sourced to the Canterbury region and beyond
		Other output	Event delivery in collaboration with local schools
17. Who/what organisations do you intend to partner with, or work with? <i>Provide a list of project partners and specify their role.</i> <i>Include whether a partner will be a co-funder.</i>	Partner name	Partner contribution to project	Co-funding
	Corrections Canterbury (Community Corrections)	One work party of 8 offenders every two weeks for three years. 9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)	Yes
	Corrections New Zealand (Christchurch Mens Prison)	25,000 native plants per annum provided. Pioneer species valued at 9(2)(b)(ii) (80% of the mix) and specimen trees valued at 9(2)(b)(ii) 20% of the mix). 9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)	Yes

	Torotoroa Ahu Whenua Trust	Provision of restoration site 25ha - use of land provided at no cost and s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)	Yes
	Waimakariri District Council	s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)	Yes
	Ministry for Social Development	s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j) currently in negotiation to provide work-start grants and training costs for vulnerable Māori clients. s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)	Yes
	Te Te Mahere Whakauka Network	Capacity development, monitoring and evaluation framework provision and social impact expertise	Yes
	Graeme Dingle Foundation	Capacity development - readiness to work training	Yes
	New Zealand Landcare Trust	Capacity development - integrated catchment management training	Yes
	The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust	Capacity development - SHMAK kit training and community engagement (wananga)	Yes
	Papa Taiao Earthcare	Capacity development - Pest Control, fencing and planting training	Yes
	Cacophony Project	Birdsong monitor and thermal camera training	
18. How will you engage with iwi/hapū and other partners throughout the project? (500 character limit)	<p>As the owners are mana whenua of this Reserve and also members of the Local Rūnanga Te Ngai Tuahuriri the Mandated and Māori Land Court appointed Trustees of the Ahu Whenua Trust are responsible in acting for the best interest of the owners. The Upoko Rūnanga has given support.</p> <p>The Trust has supported Seed NZ through a meeting of Māori Land Court Appointed Trustees and has mandated Seed New Zealand to restore the land and establish mahinga kai as per the original purpose of the Fenton Reserves.</p> <p>We will work with mana whenua, Corrections and MSD to identify vulnerable Māori for employment.</p>		
19. How does the project contribute to recovery from COVID-19? (500 character limit) <i>Consider things such as, but not limited to, generating new employment, and maintaining existing workforce capacity. Provide information about the local context, if relevant.</i>	<p>It will provide employment to at least 16 local Ngai Tahu Rūnanga people. This will include a direct intervention in collaboration with Corrections and MSD to establish employment opportunities for vulnerable Māori with at least 50% of jobs to be for wahine and 50% for rangatahi.</p> <p>These are both demographics that are forecast to be disproportionately affected by the recession.</p> <p>By collaborating on a larger dataset being compiled by the Te Mahere Whakauka network of 26 Māori-led enterprises, we will be able to realise the economic benefits of this job creation initiative.</p>		

<p>20. Nature-based employment outcomes:</p> <p><i>This will also indicate the total project length, between 1-5 years</i></p>	<p>Total project FTE (breakdown per year of funding):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year 1</th> <th>Year 2</th> <th>Year 3</th> <th>Year 4</th> <th>Year 5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Number of people receiving training:</p> <p>16</p>	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	16	16	16		
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5							
16	16	16									
<p>21. Project funding:</p> <p><i>What is the cash cost (exclusive of GST) of your project, including Freshwater Improvement Fund funding, external funding, and your organisation's contribution?</i></p> <p><i>In-kind contributions are eligible for inclusion in the total project costs</i></p>	<p>Total project cost:</p> <p>\$4,098,758</p> <p>Freshwater Improvement Fund contribution:</p> <p>\$2,787,155.44</p> <p>In-kind contribution:</p> <p>\$528,450</p> <p>Cash contribution:</p> <p>\$783,152.56</p> <p><i>Note: All contribution types must equal the total project costs</i></p>										

SECTION C: Declaration

As a duly authorised representative of the organisation as noted in Section A of this Freshwater Improvement Fund application form:

This declaration must be completed by a person with the organisation's signing authority. See the Guide for Applicants 2020 for further information on how to complete this question. Important: Please contact the Ministry if you have any queries about the terms and conditions of the deed of funding for the Freshwater Improvement Fund.

- I declare that my project meets all of the eligibility criteria for the Freshwater Improvement Fund (see page 5 of this application form).
- I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in all sections of this application form, or supplied by us in support of our application, is complete, true and correct.
- I declare that I have the authority to sign this application form and to provide this information.
- I declare that the application is not being made by an organisation that is in receivership or liquidation, or by an undischarged bankrupt.
- I declare that I have provided information about any actual or potential conflicts of interest (in question 15) and I will promptly inform the Ministry for the Environment of any such conflicts if they arise following the submission of this application.
- I understand that information presented to the Minister for the Environment and Ministry for the Environment is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982, other legislation, court orders, and in response to Parliamentary questions.
- I understand my rights in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993.
- I agree that the Ministry for the Environment can undertake, for the purpose of assessing eligibility and suitability for Freshwater Improvement Fund funding, a background check on the applicant(s), including but not limited to credit checks, criminal record checks and reference checks from other parties, and may liaise with local and national organisations about this application.
- I understand that, if I receive an invitation to proceed to Stage 2 of the funding process, this is not a confirmation of funding and the final decision is subject to a successful completion of Stage 2.

Name of signatory:
By typing your name you are electronically signing this form

Cherie Tirikatene

s9(2)(a)

Date:

10/2/21

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the Official Information Act 1982

Katie Owen

From: Cherie Tirikatene <cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a)>
Sent: Thursday, 11 February 2021 5:05 pm
To: Freshwater Improvement Fund Application
Subject: Fwd: EOI - Fresh Water Improvement Fund Round 3
Attachments: FIF Application SEED NZ FINAL v2.pdf; Cover Letter EOI FIF MFE.pdf; Letter of Support - SEED NZ.pdf; Seed NZ letter of support FIF application.pdf; LoS Nigel Harris Torotoroa 2.pdf; SC284e C28421020108190.pdf; PastedGraphic-2.tiff

Kia ora

Please find attached the edited version as per your request below.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need from me.

Ngā mihi

Cherie Tirikatene
CEO
SEED New Zealand

Mobile NZ s9(2)(a)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Freshwater Improvement Fund Application <fifapplication@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: EOI - Fresh Water Improvement Fund Round 3
Date: 11 February 2021 at 9:19:01 AM NZDT
To: Cherie Tirikatene <[<cherie.tirikatene@s9\(2\)\(a\)>](mailto:cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a))>

Kia ora Cherie,

Thank you for sending in your expression of interest for the Freshwater Improvement Fund. We've had a quick look over your submission to check eligibility and completeness of your expression of interest (EOI), and have noticed you EOI will require further work before we can confirm its receipt to be considered for funding.

To accept your EOI we need you to reduce the length of your application. Unfortunately, this word limit functionality was missing on the original template on our website. Could you please reduce the following sections down to 1000 characters (including spaces):

- 11. Project Purpose

We appreciate the work that has gone into your EOI. The extra detail you have provided can be put into a 1-2 page cover letter that you can send through alongside the EOI form. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

When you've made your updates please resubmit your EOI again in its entirety to fifapplication@mfe.govt.nz.

Note: Completed EOIs must be resubmitted by 5pm Thursday, 11 February 2021.

Ngā mihi

The Freshwater Investments Team

From: Cherie Tirikatene <[cherie.tirikatene@s9\(2\)\(a\)](mailto:cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a))>

Sent: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 12:17 pm

To: Freshwater Improvement Fund Application <fifapplication@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: Fwd: EOI - Fresh Water Improvement Fund Round 3

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Arohamai I had missed an attachment.

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Ngā mihi

Cherie Tirikatene
CEO
SEED New Zealand

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Mobile NZ [s9\(2\)\(a\)](tel:s9(2)(a))

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cherie Tirikatene <[cherie.tirikatene@s9\(2\)\(a\)](mailto:cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a))>

Subject: EOI - Fresh Water Improvement Fund Round 3

Date: 10 February 2021 at 12:15:04 PM NZDT

To: fifapplication@mfe.govt.nz

Kia ora

Please find attached EOI, Cover letter and letters of support.

Please if there is anything else you need don't hesitate to contact me.

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

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Ngā mihi

Cherie Tirikatene
CEO
SEED New Zealand

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Mobile NZs9(2)(a)

Please Note: The information contained in this e-mail message and any attached files may be confidential information, and may also be the subject of legal professional privilege. It is not necessarily the official view of the Ministry for the Environment. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this e-mail is unauthorised. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately by reply e-mail and delete the original. Thank you.

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Freshwater Improvement Fund

Expressions of Interest - 2020 Freshwater Improvement Fund Round 3

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2. Legal entity status:	Registered Charitable trust
3. Physical address:	9 Isaac Wilson Road, Kaiapoi, 7630
4. NZBN (or Trust; Charity; Inc. Society registration #):	CC54256
5. GST number:	121280515
Primary contact	
6. Name of contact person:	Cherie Tirikatene
7. Organisation:	Seed New Zealand
8. Phone number:	s9(2)(a)
9. Email address:	Cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a)

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SECTION B: Project details

10. Project name	Ngā Kaitiaki o te awa Kowai me te repo Torotoroā Restoration Project
<p>11. Project purpose</p> <p><i>This should be a brief description of the problem your project is trying to solve, your solution, and outcome your project will achieve.</i></p> <p><i>You will have the opportunity to expand on this description later in this form.</i></p>	<p>The Ahu Whenua Trust is responsible for titles Torotoroa Reserve 895. This is a Fenton reserve which was established for mahinga kai purposes in 1870.</p> <p>The Trust intends to establish native forestry, enhance biodiversity, develop an education hub and restore mahinga kai values over the 25 ha block as a case study for which we have a detailed restoration plan that will enable the development of a Māori-led enterprise to meet demand in the Otautahi/Canterbury region and deliver 'Broader Outcomes' for procurement.</p> <p>Further sites have already been identified, including the Tawera land block (which has a rare Kahiktea stand and nationally-critical Canterbury mudfish), Waimaia (another Fenton Reserve seeking to re-establish Mahinga Kai), the Red Zone restoration and Te Kākahu Kahukura.</p> <p>We will work with an array of established partners to provide specialist advice and support. This includes a pathways to self-sufficiency, using the proven enterprise models of Pūniu River Care and Pourewā.</p>
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The Leithfield site is in the Kowai River Catchment. It is dominated by 3 broad landform types that run parallel to the - eastern undulating sand dune ridge recently logged of pines; central dune swale dominated by sedgeland, herb field and rushes; and sand flats.

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Graeme Dingle Foundation	Capacity development - readiness to work training	Yes
New Zealand Landcare Trust	Capacity development - integrated catchment management training	Yes
The Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust	Capacity development - SHMAK kit training and community engagement (wananga)	Yes
Papa Taiao Earthcare	Capacity development - Pest Control, fencing and planting training	Yes
Cacophony Project	Birdsong monitor and thermal camera training	
18. How will you engage with iwi/hapū and other partners throughout the project? <i>(500 character limit)</i>	<p>As the owners are mana whenua of this Reserve and also members of the Local Rūnanga Te Ngai Tuahuriri the Mandated and Māori Land Court appointed Trustees of the Ahu Whenua Trust are responsible in acting for the best interest of the owners. The Upoko Rūnanga has given support.</p> <p>The Trust has supported Seed NZ through a meeting of Māori Land Court Appointed Trustees and has mandated Seed New Zealand to restore the land and establish mahinga kai as per the original purpose of the Fenton Reserves.</p> <p>We will work with mana whenua, Corrections and MSD to identify vulnerable Māori for employment.</p>	
19. How does the project contribute to recovery from COVID-19? <i>(500 character limit)</i> <i>Consider things such as, but not limited to, generating new employment, and maintaining existing workforce capacity. Provide information about the local context, if relevant.</i>	<p>It will provide employment to at least 16 local Ngai Tahu Rūnanga people. This will include a direct intervention in collaboration with Corrections and MSD to establish employment opportunities for vulnerable Māori with at least 50% of jobs to be for wahine and 50% for rangatahi.</p> <p>These are both demographics that are forecast to be disproportionately affected by the recession.</p> <p>By collaborating on a larger dataset being compiled by the Te Mahere Whakauka network of 26 Māori-led enterprises, we will be able to realise the economic benefits of this job creation initiative.</p>	

<p>20. Nature-based employment outcomes:</p> <p><i>This will also indicate the total project length, between 1-5 years</i></p>	<p>Total project FTE (breakdown per year of funding):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year 1</th> <th>Year 2</th> <th>Year 3</th> <th>Year 4</th> <th>Year 5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Number of people receiving training:</p> <p>16</p>	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	16	16	16		
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5							
16	16	16									
<p>21. Project funding:</p> <p><i>What is the cash cost (exclusive of GST) of your project, including Freshwater Improvement Fund funding, external funding, and your organisation's contribution?</i></p> <p><i>In-kind contributions are eligible for inclusion in the total project costs</i></p>	<p>Total project cost:</p> <p>\$4,098,758</p> <p>Freshwater Improvement Fund contribution:</p> <p>\$2,787,155.44</p> <p>In-kind contribution:</p> <p>\$528,450</p> <p>Cash contribution:</p> <p>\$783,152.56</p> <p><i>Note: All contribution types must equal the total project costs</i></p>										

SECTION C: Declaration

As a duly authorised representative of the organisation as noted in Section A of this Freshwater Improvement Fund application form:

This declaration must be completed by a person with the organisation's signing authority. See the Guide for Applicants 2020 for further information on how to complete this question. Important: Please contact the Ministry if you have any queries about the terms and conditions of the deed of funding for the Freshwater Improvement Fund.

- I declare that my project meets all of the eligibility criteria for the Freshwater Improvement Fund (see page 5 of this application form).
- I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in all sections of this application form, or supplied by us in support of our application, is complete, true and correct.
- I declare that I have the authority to sign this application form and to provide this information.
- I declare that the application is not being made by an organisation that is in receivership or liquidation, or by an undischarged bankrupt.
- I declare that I have provided information about any actual or potential conflicts of interest (in question 15) and I will promptly inform the Ministry for the Environment of any such conflicts if they arise following the submission of this application.
- I understand that information presented to the Minister for the Environment and Ministry for the Environment is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982, other legislation, court orders, and in response to Parliamentary questions.
- I understand my rights in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993.
- I agree that the Ministry for the Environment can undertake, for the purpose of assessing eligibility and suitability for Freshwater Improvement Fund funding, a background check on the applicant(s), including but not limited to credit checks, criminal record checks and reference checks from other parties, and may liaise with local and national organisations about this application.
- I understand that, if I receive an invitation to proceed to Stage 2 of the funding process, this is not a confirmation of funding and the final decision is subject to a successful completion of Stage 2.

Name of signatory:
By typing your name you are electronically signing this form

Cherie Tirikatene

s9(2)(a)

Date:

10/2/21

Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982



TO: The Ministry for the Environment
RE: Freshwater Improvement Fund

10/2/2021

*E kore e taea e te whenu kotahi, ki te raranga I te whāriki, kia mōhio tātou ki a tātou. Mā te mahi tahi o ngā whenu mā te mahi tahi o ngā kairaranga ka oti tēnei whāriki i te otinga me titiro ki ngā pai ka puta mai.
Ā tana wā me titiro I ngā raranga I makere nā te mea he korero anō kei reira.*

The Tapestry of Understanding cannot be woven by one strand alone. It takes the working together of strands the working together of people, to complete such a tapestry. When it has been completed, let us look at the good that comes from it. In time, take a look at the fallen stitches, for there is a message there also.

Sir Mark Solomon KNZM, the chair of Seed NZ and myself have developed an array of partnerships to establish an initiative that connect the Ōtautahi / Canterbury community and enable scaled regeneration for the health and wellbeing of the land, water and people.

The stage has already been set - with a wānanga we held in late 2020. Attendees included mentors from Pūniu River Care and Te Mahere Whakauka, The CEO of Christchurch City Council, The ECAN head of science, Cultivate Christchurch, Community Corrections, Christchurch Men's Prison, The Department of Conservation, philanthropists (who have expressed strong interest in supporting the initiative) and several other community groups. The result was universal support for Seed NZ to carry forward the successful model that has been proven elsewhere.

We have a case study site ready to go where we can commence our mahi and develop the capacity of Maori-led enterprise to realise benefits into the future. Within our project there is a direct initiative to evaluate social, cultural, economic and environmental impact. This is designed to unlock additional capital into the freshwater improvement that is dearly needed in the Canterbury region.

The Fenton reserves also feature both as Statutory acknowledgments within the Ngai Tahu claims settlement ACT 1998 (the Act) as well as stand-alone Fenton Reserves in particular Totoroa administered by Maori Land Court appointed trustees under the Ture Whenua Maori Land Act. The Fenton Easement Totoroa is seen as the catalyst in initial design as set out within the application for enhancement and ecological regeneration as well as social currency.

The river and associated coastline was also a significant mahinga kai, with kai moana, particularly paua, being taken at the mouth. The tūpuna had considerable knowledge of whakapapa, traditional trails and tauranga waka, places for gathering kai and other taonga, ways in which to use the resources of the river, the relationship of people with the river and their dependence on it, and tikanga for the proper and sustainable utilisation of resources.

All of these values remain important to Ngāi Tahu today and in particular those which align with the aspirations of mana whenua at Totoroa. It must be reiterated that the mana whenua see this whole area connect not just specific sites as the natural environment when viewed from the perspective of Tino Rangatiratanga and Kaitiakitanga cannot be seen in silo. The hapua serve as a link to our awa (rivers) and the wetlands and waterways that are utilised for māhinga kai and migratory taonga species.



The trustees of Torotoroa have confirmed their desire to establish social housing on the site. This has the opportunity to enable the housing of some of our most vulnerable whānau - such as recently-released prisoners, young Māori suffering from addiction and benefit dependency.

By providing a drug and alcohol-free workplace with mahi that directly connects people to nature, we have an excellent opportunity to change people's lives while improving freshwater.

Due to the significance of the site and its history, by focussing on a best-practice case study on a Fenton reserve, there will be opportunities for reconciliation for our people who have suffered from the effects of colonisation for generations.

In short - this case study will provide real results that will open up opportunities for a Māori-led enterprise to meet the needs of the people of Canterbury who are in dire need of hope.

Additional proposed partners include young leaders from the Committee for Canterbury and funding opportunities that are on the horizon from the Christchurch Foundation and the OCEAN project. They all seek to partner with a Māori-led regenerative enterprise.

Through our strong connections across the region, we will invite other enterprises to learn from our project and open up the impact data so that we can collectively celebrate the results - providing benefits into the future.

We are humbled by the fact that we have access to proven strategy that have been established by Pūniu River Care and the designers of the Ngāti Whatua restoration project at Whenua Rangatira. This means that we are not guessing at how to succeed in the initiative - we are tailoring successful enterprise models to have our own flavour by our people and for our people.

We are open to part-funding of this proposal and will continue to work towards achieving the aspirations of our people whatever the result of this process, however we know that the timing is right for this enterprise to launch in Ōtautahi / Canterbury.

To us, there is no separation between people and the environment. We will take our values bravely forward to regenerate one of Aotearoa's most vulnerable regions for freshwater by activating our people to realise their aspirations for kaitiakitanga.

ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au

I am the river, the river is me

s9(2)(a)

Cherie Tirikatene
cherie.tirikatene@^{s9(2)(a)}



Date: 03/02/2021

To Ministry of Environment: Department of Conservation: Provincial Development Unit,

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SEED NEW ZEALAND

SEED New Zealand (SEED NZ) has shared with the Department of Corrections (Corrections) its vision to create sustainable, restoration-focused jobs across Te Waipounamu. The SEED NZ intends to apply for funding to support the realisation of this vision.

Corrections is committed to reducing re-offending and improving the lives of people in our care by providing work, training, rehabilitation programmes and constructive activities that will be of benefit to them while serving their custodial sentence and on release.

We understand that one of the SEED NZ's next funding requests will support an initiative to develop a propagation operation in partnership with Corrections. Corrections have expressed in-principle support for this initiative because it:

- Aligns with our Hōkai Rangi strategy

Hōkai Rangi expresses our commitment to delivering great outcomes with and for Maori in our care and their whanau so that we can begin to address the significant over-representation of Maori in the Corrections system.

This partnership offers the opportunity to build on this strategy through our well-established pathways programme at Christchurch Men's Prison (CMP) through the integration of kaupapa Maori and whanau-centred approaches throughout the initiative.

- Creates a further opportunity to equip people in our care with the foundations for participation on release.

The SEED NZ is keen to jointly utilise the nursery operation at CMP to propagate and grow on native seedlings. This would build on CMP's existing horticulture training programme, designed to equip participating prisoners with industry standard skills and qualifications as well as preparing them to be work ready on release. The current programme successfully blends a Te Ao world view with technical horticulture training.

If successful, the initiative would see a growth in the propagation dimension of the operation. Eco-sourced seeds and materials would be provided by the SEED NZ, the seeds would be propagated by the people in the care of CMP and seedlings would be returned to the SEED NZ for restoration activities across Te Waipounamu in particular Canterbury and Central Otago.

These kinds of activities create a strong sense of pride and community contribution in the people in our care and offer the opportunity to develop deep technical skills in a specialist vocation. Together, this combination supports their reintegration into the community on release.

- Establishes a potential path to employment for people in the care of Corrections.

The SEED NZ has expressed a strong interest in collaborating with Corrections to create an environment to support the reintegration into the community of prisoners on release. This initiative could take the form of CMP actively supporting the on-ground objectives of the SEED NZ through work-party type activity. It could extend to the SEED NZ making job places available to people in the care of Corrections through the Release to Work programme. It could culminate in the creation of a pathway for a transition from Release to Work to paid, sustainable employment on release.

At this early stage CMP already have 15,000 plants on hand for this venture and would look at the possibility of raising approximately 25,000 seedlings per year. CMP support is approximately s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j)

Some potential assistance that could help the kaupapa:

- Seedling propagation (kai, native plants/trees, certain exotics for carbon farming e.g. Eucalypts)
- Seedlings fully grown, ready to plant
- Kai
- Construction of planter boxes
- Construction of shade houses
- Release to work
- Bespoke training
- Job creation strategy
- Creating value-add products (e.g. honey production, essential oils, natural textiles, natural dyes, carvings, other rongoa, toi māori etc.)

Corrections support the SEED NZ's vision and objectives for the initiative. We look forward to collaborating with the SEED NZ through the next stages of the initiatives development.

s9(2)(a)

This letter is approved by:

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



10 February 2021

To: The Ministry for the Environment
RE: Seed NZ application

*Ko Rimutaka ngā pae maunga, ko te awa Kairangi te awa, ko Te Whanganui ā tara te moana
He hoa taupuhipuhi o te moana ahau, he hoa taupuhipuhi o ngā awa ahau, he hoa taupuhipuhi o te ngāhere
ahau.*

Ko Pākeha toku iwi, ko Judd toku hapū, Ko Sam ahau.

I write this letter on behalf of Te Mahere Whakauka / The Hope Project and He Toutou Mō Te Ahikā Trust, of which I am a Co Founder and current trustee.

We are prepared to offer Seed NZ support with their enterprise models, using the successful examples of Pūniu River Care, Ngati Whatua O Orakei and Sustainable Coastlines – which we have direct access to.

We are currently developing a Better Business Case with The Ministry for Social Development (MSD), MPI, DOC, Stats NZ and the Department of Corrections.

MSD has expressed their intention to support this project and we are expecting a significant amount of funding to be realised for the benefit of developing the capacity of Māori-led enterprise.

The Seed NZ project is one of the most 'shovel ready' of the group of 26 Māori-led enterprises which we have established. We are committed to providing assistance to de-risk their venture and assist with our network of specialists.

Please feel free to contact me directly for a verbal or written corroboration/explanation of this letter.

s9(2)(a)

Sam Judd
Co Founder
Te Mahere Whakauka / The Hope Project
He Toutou Mō Te Ahikā Trust
A registered New Zealand Charity
CC 58385

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the Official Information Act 1982

Nigel Harris
Chair
Totororoa Reserve 895 Ahu Whenua Trust
s9(2)(a)

23rd December 2020

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter in support of SEED NEW ZEALAND as the chair of the Totororoa Reserve 895 Ahu Whenua Trust.

Totororoa Reserve 895 has has aspirations to restore and plant native forestry for biodiversity, restoration of the water values, education and mahinga kai. We support SEED NEW ZEALAND with their application and future works on this land as we feel that our aspirations align.

This letter is to confirm hat the Totororoa Trust is in agreement and has endorsed its support with the intent of developing a mutually beneficial authentic partnership based on these mutual aspirations and of the outcomes sort to:

- Restore Mahinga Kai values back into the reserve
- Create eco education/matauranga outcomes
- Restore the whenua back to as near as possible, the previous remnant native plant communities
- Exploring different types of best farming practices
- Creating opportunities for employment and education
- Create, grow and support a self sustaining multi land use program

We also believe that this project will create a new level of engagement from our whanau to connect back to their whenua.

With that in mind the Trust is of the mind that they would look to invest into this project also and would look to utilise funds that it currently has available of s9(2)(b)(ii); 9(2)(j) to support this kaupapa.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this letter in more detail, please contact me on s9(2)(a)

Nga mihi

9(2)(a)

Nigel Harris
Chair
Totororoa Reserve 895 Ahu Whenua Trust

Te Maire Tau
Upoko
Ngāi Tūāhuriri
s9(2)(a)

31st January 2021

To whom it may concern

I write this letter of support to Totororoa Reserve 895 Ahu Whenua Trust and SEED NZ as the Upoko of Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

Totororoa Reserve 895 has had aspirations to restore and plant native forestry for biodiversity, restoration of the water values, education and mahinga kai for a while. So I see this as an exciting opportunity that SEED NZ has offered the Totororoa Trust. I support this partnership along with their application and future works on this Māori land that is currently being under utilised.

I understand that the Totororoa Trust is in agreement and has endorsed its support with the intent of developing a mutually beneficial authentic partnership based on these mutual aspirations and of the outcomes sort.

We also believe that this project will create a new level of engagement from whānau to connect back to their whenua.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this letter in more detail, please contact me on s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Te Maire Tau
Upoko
Ngāi Tūāhuriri

Released under the Provision of the Official Information Act 1982

File note

File ref:

Author: Simon Ingram, Senior Analyst, Freshwater Investments Date: 21 July 2021

Re: a call received on the Freshwater Investments Team phone, from a caller raising concern about an applicant and/or application to FIF Round 3.

Purpose

- 1) This file note documents a call received on the Freshwater Investments Team phone, from a caller raising what they considered serious concerns about an applicant and/or application to FIF Round 3.

Background

- 2) In 2016, \$100 million was awarded over 10 years for the creation of the Freshwater Improvement Fund. The first funding round was conducted in 2017 and awarded \$45 million to 34 projects across New Zealand. The remaining \$55 million in funding was made available as part of the \$1.3 billion Jobs for Nature environment funding programme.
- 3) A short 6-week funding round (2) was held in September 2020 for shovel ready projects, which resulted in \$36 million being awarded to 19 projects. The final round (3) to award the remaining \$19 million in funding was conducted through a new Expressions of Interest process with the round closing on 10 February 2021.
- 4) s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 5) On Tuesday 27 April, Analyst, Orin Robb, received a call at approximately 2pm on the Freshwater Investments Team phone (022 1755 840) from s9(2)(a) [REDACTED].
- 6) The caller was contacting the Ministry with regard to a current application to the Freshwater Improvement Fund within the Canterbury region, and more specifically "Tawera".
- 7) The individual had multiple concerns around the application in question. More specifically, concerns relating to land ownership, trustees and trustee obligations, non-disclosure of information, particulars of shareholding/shareholders, OIA requests, the Māori Land Court, and potential wrongdoing and/or legal action.

- 8) Orin did not provide comment on the concerns of the caller.
- 9) The caller did not mention the name of the application. However, after conducting analysis of the applications in the Canterbury region Orin concluded this may relate to FIF3178 as it cited the "Tawera land block".
- 10) Though the caller wishes to keep their identity confidential, they were happy to be contacted by the Ministry on s9(2)(a) regarding this matter.
- 11) Orin agreed that the Ministry would not disseminate their personal information.
- 12) The matter was brought to the attention of myself Simon Ingram, Senior Analyst, Andrea Gregor, Senior Analyst and Wes Patrick, Manager. Wes' recommendation was that since the FIF3178 had already been declined, we don't need to engage with this caller. However, we should notify the applicant that we received this call in case they want to try to resolve the issue.
- 13) I responded to Wes that we do not need to engage with the recipient either, as the caller mentioned they do not wish to be identified, and that the matter could now be considered closed.

Key documents include:

Name	Description	Te Puna Ref
FIF3 caller concern email trail	Email trail outlining steps taken to resolve query	

Katie Owen

From: Orin Robb
Sent: Friday, 7 May 2021 12:36 pm
To: Simon Ingram
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FIF Round 3 application

Kia ora Simon,

As per your email.

Summary of events

- I received a call from s9(2)(a) on Tuesday 27 April at approximately 2pm.
- The caller was contacting the Ministry with regard to a current application to the Freshwater Improvement Fund within the Canterbury region, and more specifically "Tawera".
- The individual had multiple concerns around the application in question. More specifically, concerns relating to land ownership, trustees and trustee obligations, non-disclosure of information, particulars of shareholding/shareholders, OIA requests, the Māori Land Court, and potential wrongdoing and/or legal action.
- I did not provide comment on the concerns of the caller.
- The caller did not mention the name of the application. However, after conducting analysis of the applications in the Canterbury region I concluded this may relate to FIF3178 as it cited the "Tawera land block".
- Some further information online also <https://www.maorilandonline.govt.nz/gis/title/22391.htm> overlaps with information provided in the FIF3178 application.
- Though the caller wishes to keep their identity confidential, they were happy to be contacted by the Ministry on s9(2)(a) regarding this matter.
- I agreed that the Ministry would not disseminate their personal information.

Kind regards,

Orin Robb

Analyst | Kaitātari

Freshwater Investments Team | Tima o Ngā Whakanao o Wai Māori

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

022 301 2896 | orin.robbs@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me, this means 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Feel free to call, email or text outside working normal days/hours if necessary.



From: Simon Ingram <Simon.Ingram@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 6 May 2021 3:56 pm

To: Wes Patrick <wes.patrick@mfe.govt.nz>; Orin Robb <Orin.Robb@mfe.govt.nz>; Andrea Gregor <Andrea.Gregor@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FIF Round 3 application

Kia ora Wes

I've had a chat with Orin and agree with you that we do not need to engage with the caller, adding to that I don't think we need to engage with the recipient either, as the caller mentioned they do not wish to be identified.

Orin will email through the notes he took from the call and I'll add this as a file note to recipients EOI folder. Other than that I think we can consider this closed.

Cheers

Simon

From: Wes Patrick <wes.patrick@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 2 May 2021 12:11 pm

To: Orin Robb <Orin.Robb@mfe.govt.nz>; Simon Ingram <Simon.Ingram@mfe.govt.nz>; Andrea Gregor <Andrea.Gregor@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FIF Round 3 application

Hi Andy and Simon,

Given FIF3178 has already been declined, I don't think we need to engage with this caller.

However, we should notify the applicant that we received this call in case they want to try to resolve the issue. We don't have to be involved beyond that 9(2)(g)(i)

Simon, will you talk to **Orin** and then draft an email that I can send to the applicant to notify him of complaint.

Thanks,

Wes

From: Orin Robb <Orin.Robb@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:02 pm

To: Wes Patrick <wes.patrick@mfe.govt.nz>; Simon Ingram <Simon.Ingram@mfe.govt.nz>; Andrea Gregor <Andrea.Gregor@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FIF Round 3 application

Good afternoon all,

Emailing you after discussing with Sarah.

I received a call on the FIT phone this afternoon. The caller had raised what they considered serious concerns about an applicant and/or application to FIF Round 3.

Although I was careful not to weigh in on the matter, I did take some brief information and contact details should we wish to respond further.

After searching the list, I believe this is regarding FIF3178.

Please feel free to contact me for more information. I will be in the office tomorrow.

Cheers,

Orin Robb

Analyst | Kaitātari

Freshwater Investments Team | Tima o Ngā Whakanao o Wai Māori

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

022 301 2896 | orin.robbs@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me, this means 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Feel free to call, email or text outside working normal days/hours if necessary.



Released under the provision of the Official Information Act 1982

Katie Owen

From: Freshwater Improvement Fund
Sent: Monday, 9 August 2021 11:26 am
To: Katie Owen
Subject: [COMMERCIAL]FW: Freshwater Improvement Fund EOI Outcome
Attachments: Freshwater Improvement Fund EOI Letter.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Freshwater Improvement Fund <fif@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 1 April 2021 11:40 am
To: 'Cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a)' <Cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a)>
Subject: Freshwater Improvement Fund EOI Outcome

Kia ora,

Many thanks for your patience awaiting the results of your expression of interest application to the Freshwater Improvement Fund.

Please see the attached letter regarding the outcome of your application.

Ngā mihi,

Wes Patrick
Manager – Freshwater Investments Team

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982

1 April 2021

Cherie Tirikatene
Seed New Zealand
Cherie.tirikatene@s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Cherie Tirikatene,

Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) expression of interest application: FIF3178

Thank you for submitting an expression of interest application on behalf of Seed New Zealand entitled "Ngā Kaitiaki o te awa Kowai me te repo Torotoroā Restoration Project", which was received in the February round of the Freshwater Improvement Fund. The Ministry for the Environment (**Ministry**) appreciate the amount of work involved in preparing an application and thank you for your patience in waiting for a decision.

It is with regret we advise that your request for funding has been unsuccessful. The February funding round for the FIF was highly competitive with a total of 178 eligible applications received, requesting up to \$394 million in funding from a total pool for this round of \$19 million. All applications were assessed against the full range of advertised FIF assessment criteria.

The applications the panel considered successful were those that best addressed the management of freshwater bodies considered vulnerable, demonstrated improvement in the values and benefits derived from the freshwater body and contributed to the recovery from COVID-19 through generating employment. The projects also demonstrated their ability to leverage other funding, their support from partner organisations and capability to deliver a successful project.

However, the assessment panel noted your proposal as having a solid foundation and would have been considered to progress to next stage of application process if funding availability was not a factor. The Ministry will keep your expression of interest application on file and contact you if there is an opportunity to fund your project through another mechanism.

We also suggest you visit the Jobs for Nature webpage to see what other funding opportunities are available to you. Jobs for Nature provides \$1.245 billion over a four-year programme to create nature-based jobs to protect and restore our natural environment. You can find more information at: www.mfe.govt.nz/funding/jobs-for-nature.

If you would like to contact the Ministry for the Environment to discuss feedback from the panel on your proposal, please contact the Freshwater Investments Team by email fif@mfe.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

Wes Patrick
Manager, Freshwater Investments