Quick Tips for funding applications by Kelly Bisset - Relationship Manager (Northland, Canterbury, Otago, Southland and Chatham Islands) Ministry for the Environment – Manatū Mō Te Taiao

MfE operates several contestable funds i.e. funds that anyone who meets the fund criteria can apply for (when a fund opens for applications). Information on each of our funds is available on our website (see <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding> for the main landing page), but for your convenience, I’ve included relevant links below. Information on other government funds is available <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/funding/sources-funding/funding-other-government-departments>.

Of MfE’s funds - the Te Mana o Te Wai Fund (TMOTW) is due to open for applications late 2020 and the FIF is due to run a funding round between 27 January and 10 February 2021.

**Some quick tips:**

* Keep an eye on MfE’s website for information on funds and when they are opening.
* If you want to apply for funding, make sure you read the guide to applicants (which typically includes a checklist to make sure you include all required info) and use the application forms provided (usually there is a Word document and a budget sheet).
* Also, usually there is an email address on MfE’s website, and you can email any questions to that email address.
* You can ask (via email) if it possible to submit a draft of your application for feedback during a funding round – subject to available resources, MfE may be able to provide some high-level feedback on your application e.g. gaps, areas that need more development, but they won’t tell you if your application might be accepted for funding.
* Only applications that meet the funding criteria (as listed on our website) will be considered for funding.
* Typically, applications are assessed by an independent panel who make recommendations to ministers. Final decisions on which projects to fund are made by the relevant Minister.
* Applicants are wise to make sure their final application has been proof-read by someone else before submitting it, and check all the numbers tally up across all forms and tables
* If applicants don’t know where to start, or need some help preparing their application, they could contact their region’s [NZ Landcare Trust](https://apc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.landcare.org.nz%2Fstaff&data=04%7C01%7CAlison.Bower%40ecan.govt.nz%7Cb6f7799bb9d64235017f08d8757d9d09%7C984befeac12e454e91117b8d8da5e7e1%7C0%7C0%7C637388529739363742%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Y3bC65vpNf%2F8ZAyHGcBQxWqmiyDL5KIceIe5PQBUSfk%3D&reserved=0) office and a regional coordinator may be able to help them connecting with others and or potentially finding out about local funding sources; the local council is also worth talking to as often MfE favours collaborative projects and councils may also be able to help with information, and potentially willing to provide additional supporting/co-funding for a project.