

# Confidential Report Released into the Public Business

**Meeting Date:** 13 February 2024

**Subject:** Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund Applications



## Reason for Excluding the Public:

<p>The reason the subject of this matter is to be considered while the public is excluded is:</p> <p>s7(2)(a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural person. The detail of the applications and analysis of the applications needs to be confidential to protect the persons involved.</p>	<p>The grounds for exclusion are in accordance with s48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 whereby the public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.</p>
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The redacted report has been released into the Public Business through a resolution of the Community Board. The results of the decision were made known to the applicants by Council officers 14 February 2024.

**Report to: Ōwhango-National Park Community Board**

**Meeting Date:** 13 February 2024

**Subject:** Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund Applications  
**Report for:** Information



**Author(s):** Candice McNaught

**MANAGER COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS & WELLBEING**

**Endorsed By:** Pauline Welch

**EXECUTIVE MANAGER COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Reason for Excluding the Public:**

s7(2)(a) To protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural person. The detail of the applications and analysis of the applications needs to be confidential to protect the persons involved.

**Purpose of Report | Te take mō te pūrongo**

The purpose of this report is twofold:

- a. To present the received applications to the Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund to the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board (ONPCB), and
- b. To confirm with ONPCB the next actions as per Point 31 of this report.

**Recommendation(s) | Ngā tūhonga**

That the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board:

- 1. Receives the Confidential Report **Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund Applications**;
- 2. **EITHER** Invites all applicants to present to the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board on their application to the Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund on (insert date and time) at (insert location);  
**OR** Approves for a decision paper to be tabled at the next Ōwhango-National Park Community Board meeting for allocation of the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board's proportion of the fund;
- 3. **Does** record this resolution in the Public Business Minutes of this meeting; and
- 4. **Does Not** release this report as publicly available information until the funding decisions of Council and the Community Boards are formally announced.

**Well-Being Outcomes**

In accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA): the purpose of Local Government is to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Refer: [Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Portal](#)

Contributes    Detracts    No Impact

**Social:** Safe, healthy communities

      

Council funding community projects can enhance social well-being by supporting initiatives that address the needs and aspirations of local communities. By providing financial resourcing, Council can enable

community groups to deliver activities and services that improve the social wellbeing within their communities.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
<b>Economic:</b> Thriving economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Fund has the ability to assist with empowering programmes to enhance training and development in the employment sector, as well as arts and other opportunities.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
<b>Environmental:</b> Sustaining beautiful environments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If funded, application 16 has the potential to have a negative impact on the environment by way of litter etc that is accumulated at outdoor community events. However, this is easily mitigated with best practice waste disposal management for events such as these.

	Contributes	Detracts	No Impact
<b>Cultural:</b> Vibrant and diverse living	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Fund has the possibility to promote local arts and initiatives that can assist in promoting cultural diversity, exchange and dialogue.

## Significance and Engagement | Takenga mai

### Significance

The projects that receive funding from the Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund may be of some interest to some community members, but it is considered a low to medium Council impact as per schedule one of Councils Significance and Engagement Policy.

### Engagement

Engagement on the Empowering Communities Enhancement Fund took place from August to October 2023.

## Background | Tuhinga

1. As part of the ongoing Three Waters Reform Programme, the Government had set aside two billion dollars for local authorities to use over the coming years to support community wellbeing.
2. Ruapehu District Council's funding allocation was \$4.12m for Tranche One, and \$12.35m Tranche Two. Following the Government's announcement 13 April 2023, Tranche Two is no longer available.
3. Council worked with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), on the best way forward for the Better off Funding. The outcome of these discussions was the following:
  - a. Waimarino Rest Home upgrades \$540,000
  - b. Long Term Plan existing eligible projects \$3.08Million
  - c. Fund for community projects \$500,000.
4. The primary purpose of the "Better off Funding" was to improve the well-being and quality of lives for the residents of the Ruapehu District. The Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund does this by providing financial support to initiatives and projects that contribute to the betterment of the community.
5. The criteria for the amount allocated for projects in each Community Board area has followed the DIA allocation method, with the deprivation level of the area weighted at 20% and the population at 80%.
  - a. Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board 36%
  - b. Ōwhango-National Park Community Board 12%

c. Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board 52%.

6. This methodology ensures that the funds are spread across the District in an equitable manner.

**7. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND PROCESS**

8. Council received a total of 34 applications to the Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund totalling \$2,457,254. One project was withdrawn as funding was received from another source, and one had no funding attached, leaving 32 applications, totalling \$2,456,504.

9. Ōwhango-National Park Community Board members have received a copy of all the applications (**Attachment 1**). The applications are diverse in nature ranging from environmental projects, business initiatives, various events, and social initiatives.

10. There was one district wide project (\$67,000). Three projects from Ōwhango-National Park Community Board Area (\$69,443), 12 from the Taumarunui-Ōhura Community Board Area (\$1,078,632), 15 from the Waimarino-Waiouru Community Board Area (\$1,068,679), and two that were targeting all Community Board areas (\$172,750).

District Wide	\$67,000
Ōwhango-National Park	\$69,443
Taumarunui-Ōhura	\$1,078,632
Waimarino-Waiouru	\$1,068,679
All Community Board Areas	\$172,750

11. The process resolved by Council was that Council would grant projects that have a district wide focus and Community Boards would grant projects for their respective Community Board areas.

**Discussion | He Kōrerorero**

1. With the methodology approved by Council and outlined in Point 5 above, the ONPCB has \$42,650 available for distribution within its boundary.
2. All projects should be viewed and awarded on their merits according to the criteria and weighted against all other applications received.

**3. APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED WITHIN THE ONPCB BOUNDARY**

4. **Application 07 Owhango Residents and Ratepayers Society Inc:** Upgrade to Ōwhango Community Hall \$24,443.30.

**5. Wellbeing Framework Alignment**

This application meets aligns to the following aspects of the framework:

- a. Our purpose.
- b. Our Vision.
- c. Our Community Outcomes.
  - i. Our local communities are thriving and enabled to pursue their aspirations.
- d. Our Goals.
  - i. Each community in the district is supported to develop and implement a local community plan.

- ii. Council encourages initiatives that promote social connection and self-determination.
- iii. Council's public spaces are safe and accessible for all.

**6. Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Alignment**

Participants in the Ōwhango focus group expressed that there are fewer formal opportunities for social connection in the Ōwhango community than there used to be; although they also identified that there are new opportunities arising to allow for socialisation as a community. The hall itself was referenced numerous times as a place that still allowed for social interaction at community events like the market days that are held.

**7. Criteria of the Fund Alignment**

This application meets and aligns to the following criteria of the fund:

- a. Stands the test of time and continues to benefit generations to come.
- b. Aims to enhance the overall well-being of the community.
- c. Does not have an on-going significant cost to ratepayers for operations or maintenance.
- d. Has strong community and volunteer backing.

**8. Considerations for the Community Board**

The Ōwhango Community Hall is a well-used asset and considered a benefit to the local community of Ōwhango. The hall is run by the Ōwhango residents and Ratepayers Society Inc and is well maintained and looked after. If the Community Board chooses not to fund this project via the Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund, it would be eligible for funding through Councils Community Halls Grant fund (currently open) and the Pride of Place Fund. However, the funding for Pride of Place has been allocated for the rest of this financial year

**9. Application 08 National Park Village Progressive Association Inc: Upgrades to National Park Village Community Hall \$45,000.**

**10. Wellbeing Framework Alignment**

This application aligns to the following aspects of the framework:

- a. Our Purpose.
- b. Our Vision.
- c. Our Community Outcomes.
  - i. Our infrastructure assets and services are resilient and fit for purpose.
  - ii. Our local communities are thriving and enabled to pursue their aspirations.
- d. Our Goals.
  - i. All Council-owned assets are resilient and future proof.
  - ii. Council encourages initiatives that promote social connection and self-determination.
  - iii. Councils' public spaces are safe and accessible for all.

**11. Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Alignment**

Participants in the National Park focus group expressed that there are limited formal ways that people are able to connect with others in the area. Community projects and activities were considered to be opportunities where people can meet, socialise and work together.

**12. Criteria of the Fund Alignment**

This application meets and aligns to the following criteria of the fund:

- a. Stands the test of time and continues to benefit generations to come.
- b. Aims to enhance the overall well-being of the community.

**13. Considerations for the Community Board**

The National Park Community Hall is in need of substantial maintenance for it to become a useable asset for its community. Feedback from the community consultation recently undertaken with the National Park Community did not receive a great amount in terms of the hall but what was received express that people would like to see a fully useable community space that didn't have gym equipment in it.

14. It is hard to gauge the actual amounts required for the upgrades as trades people are unaware of what is expected. However, the key contact for this application from National Park Village Business Association believes the amounts in the application are prime cost estimates.

15. If the Community Board chooses not to fund this project via the Empowering Communities, Enhancing Lives Fund, it would be eligible for funding through Council's Community Halls Grant fund (currently open) and the Pride of Place Fund. However, the funding for Pride of Place has been allocated for the rest of this financial year. It should also be noted that Council's current Community Hall Grant fund does not fund removable chattels such as crockery and cutlery etc. .

16. **Application 24 Localize It!**: Local Art Display \$0.

**17. Wellbeing Framework Alignment**

This application aligns to the following aspects of the framework:

- a. Our Purpose.
- b. Our Vision.
- c. Our Community Outcomes.
  - i. Our local communities are thriving and enabled to pursue their aspirations.
  - ii. Our businesses are prosperous and connected to their community.
- d. Our Goals.
  - i. Council encourages initiatives that promote social connection and self-determination.
  - ii. The Ruapehu business community is growing and diversifying.

**18. Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Alignment**

Participants in the National Park focus group expressed that the nature of work in National Park is changing. This application allows for the continuation of a different business within National Park that isn't solely reliant on the tourism sector.

**19. Criteria of the Fund Alignment**

This application meets and aligns to the following criteria of the fund:

- a. Aims to enhance the overall well-being of the community.
- b. Does not have an on-going significant cost to ratepayers for operations or maintenance.

**20. Considerations for the Community Board**

Currently the Ruapehu District area has a number of art groups that regularly hold exhibitions, workshops etc. and sell art, that tourists and locals are able to purchase. There is not enough information in the application, including financial breakdown for Council staff to determine whether it would be a successful initiative or not.

21. **Application 16 Central Media Group NZ LTD T/A Ski FM:** Summer outdoor open air cinema movie series \$58,750.

**22. Wellbeing Framework Alignment**

This application aligns to the following aspects of the framework:

- a. Our Purpose.
- b. Our Vision.
- c. Our Community Outcomes.
  - i. Our local communities are thriving and enabled to pursue their aspirations.
- d. Our Goals.
  - i. Council encourages initiatives that promote social connection and self-determination.

**23. Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Alignment**

Participants in the National Park focus group felt that social isolation in the community was an issue, especially for people new to the area. A free community event in the area would provide an opportunity for community members to connect.

**24. Criteria of the Fund Alignment**

This application meets and aligns to the following criteria of the fund:

- a. Aims to enhance the overall well-being of the community.
- b. Does not have an on-going significant cost to ratepayers for operations or maintenance.

**25. Considerations for the Community Board**

This application is for three separate community events across the district in Taumarunui, National Park and Ohakune. For the purposes of this report the ONPCB is only considering the proposed National Park based event.

26. **Application 17: Central Media Group NZ LTD T/A Ski FM:** Digital display boards \$114,000.

**27. Wellbeing Framework Alignment**

This application aligns to the following aspects of the framework:

- a. Our Purpose.
- b. Our Vision.
- c. Our Community Outcomes.
  - i. Our local communities are thriving and enabled to pursue their aspirations.
  - ii. Our businesses are prosperous and connected to their community.
- d. Our Goals.
  - i. Council encourages initiatives that promote social connection and self-determination.

**28. Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu Alignment**

Whilst the application to purchase and install a digital display screen doesn't specifically address issues identified on Pūwhenua ki Ruapehu, it can be argued that the digital displays will be of benefit to local businesses, community groups etc. by allowing an advertising platform for them.

**29. Criteria of the Fund Alignment**

This application meets and aligns to the following criteria of the fund:

- a. Stands the test of time and continue to benefit generations to come.
- b. Aims to enhance the overall well-being of the community.
- c. Does not have an on-going significant cost to ratepayers for operations or maintenance.

**30. Considerations for the Community Board**

As with Application 16, this project is for three separate digital display screens across the district in Taumarunui, National Park and Ohakune. For the purposes of this report ONPCB is only considering the installation of a proposed digital display screen in National Park.

**31. NEXT STEPS OF THE PROCESS**

- 32. ONPCB Members need to consider if they would like to extend an invitation to the applicants to speak in support of their application. If so, a date, time and location will need to be set, preferably before the next ONPCB Meeting scheduled for 9 April 2024.
- 33. If ONPCB decides it does not need to hear the applicants speak, a decision paper will be tabled at the next ONPCB meeting to allocate the funding.

**Next Actions | Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei**

- 1. All applicants will be notified of the date set to come and meet with the Ōwhango-National Park Community Board to discuss their application.
- 2. A decision paper will be tabled at the next ONPCB meeting for allocation of ONPCB's proportion of the fund.

**Attachment(s) | Ngā āpitihanga**

- 1. [REDACTED]