

4. NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION TRUST, REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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Corporate Plan Output: Grants Administration	

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with details of a request from the New Zealand Conservation Trust for a grant from the Council of \$25,000.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Financial Plan and Programme process for the 2000/01 financial year the New Zealand Conservation Trust applied for a grant of \$190,500 for three components of their Eco-Vision. This was made up of:

Manager/executive officers position.	\$48,000
Education Officer/providers position	\$32,500
Completion of Kiwi breeding centre	\$110,000

This request was considered by the Grants Subcommittee and subsequently by the Annual Plan Working Party which recommended to the Council that the funding application be declined. The working party's recommendation was adopted by the Council at its Annual Plan meeting on 6 July 2000. One of the reasons for declining the application was that the Government has established a large fund for kiwi conservation measures.

This organisation had received support from the Council through the Major Grants budget for the past seven years with \$25,000 in the first two years, \$18,000 in the 1999/2000 year and \$22,000 for the other four years 1995/96 to 1998/99.

REQUEST

In August this year the Conservation Trust wrote to the Mayor, following a visit to their Kiwi breeding facilities, and requested a one off grant of \$25,000 to assist the trust with costs over the next 12 month period until they have details in place with DOC in respect to their Kiwi Breeding programme

They require these funds to help with the employment of a manager to oversee the breeding programme, carry out fundraising, liaison with DOC and Tangata Whenua and for the management of their other conservation projects and activities. The Kiwi Breeding programme will see the release of Kiwi back into the wild.

The trust state that they are unable to fund this shortfall themselves without seriously impacting on the programme itself and they are confident of being self supporting in this area within 12 months.

As can be seen from this latest request it is much more realistic in terms of expected funding from the Council, when compared to their original request, but because there are no discretionary monies available within the grants budget any support would need to be funded from other sources i.e. contingency fund. The trust gets in the vicinity of 70,000 visitors each year; of these 28,000 are overseas tourists. They also have about 20,000 visits from school children each year.

It is recommended that the Council provide a one off grant of \$25,000 to the New Zealand Conservation Trust from the Contingency Fund.

As stated above, the trust's original application was not supported by either the Events Subcommittee or the Annual Plan Working Party. The Committee considered that given this, it would be inappropriate for the application to be dealt with outside the normal grants/budget process.

Recommendation: That the application be referred to the Grants Subcommittee for consideration for a grant in the next funding round.