

Upper Clutha Lakes Trust Board

Wanaka Water Project



Expressions of Interest: Urban Runoff Research

The Upper Clutha Lakes Trust invites Expressions of Interest in providing research to improve understanding, management and measurement of the quantity, quality and impacts of urban runoff on the Lake Wanaka ecosystem.

Successful projects will help address one or more of the following topics:

- 1) Measure the quality, quantity and variability of urban runoff generated by urban areas in Wanaka.
- 2) Track the movement and processing of urban runoff through Lake Wanaka, using analysis of sediments, trace metals, pathogens, nutrients and organic compounds as well as introduced tracers.
- 3) Assess the impacts of urban runoff on lake ecosystem health by comparing ecosystem health in impacted and non-impacted areas. Lake ecosystem health biomonitoring protocols could be developed.

Background

In June 2018 the Upper Clutha Lakes Trust (formerly the Lake Wanaka Trust and Upper Clutha Water Group) secured funding from the Government's Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF), one of 34 projects nationally to improve freshwater management and the only project funded in the Otago region. The FIF fund focuses on water bodies in vulnerable catchments that are showing signs of stress, but which have not yet reached a tipping point.

FIF funding is supporting the Wanaka Water Project which involves three key streams of work:

- The development of a community-led water management plan supported by iwi, urban residents, tourism operators, visitors, farmers, scientists and regulators.
- Strategic plantings to restore riparian margins, led by Te Kāhano Aotearoa Trust in partnership with landowners, Otago Regional Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council and other stakeholders.
- Applied research on Lake Wanaka to assess the effects of stormwater runoff from urban development on water quality and lake health and use results to define management measures.

The outcomes from these projects will improve and maintain the long-term health of the wider Upper Clutha catchment area including Lake Wanaka, Lake Hawea and the Clutha, Hawea and Cardrona Rivers.

Stakeholders supporting and working with UCLTB include Otago Regional Council and Queenstown Lakes District Council, Te Kāhano Aotearoa Trust, Sargood Bequest, Million Metres, University of Otago, Catchments Otago, Wanaka Community Board, Guardians of Lake Wanaka, Guardians of Lake Hawea, Department of Conservation, Forest & Bird, Shaping our Future, LINK Upper Clutha, Lake Wanaka Tourism, Fish and Game, MPI, MfE, Lake Wanaka Tourism, Deer Industry NZ, Criffel Station, Federated Farmers, Mt Aspiring Station and Mt Burke Station.

Funding and resources

FIF funding commenced in June 2018 and runs for 5 years through to June 2018.

FIF funding for applied research is limited. The Trust intends to seek additional funding from community and local governments sources to extend FIF funding. In addition, the Trust will work collaboratively with community groups and partner organisations to access in-kind support for priority urban research.

Research proposals put forward for consideration should require funding of no more than \$20,000 per year. Proposals for lesser amounts are welcomed, as are proposals involving one or more postgraduate students.

Research proposals should specify any alternative (non-monetary) resources which may assist the proposal.

A reporting strategy and data storage/access policy will be developed with successful applicants.

Submitting an Expression of Interest

All interested individuals are invited to submit an Expression of Interest including an outline of the proposed research to community@uppercluthalakestrust.org by 5pm Wednesday, 31 October 2018.

Timeline

Date	Step
24 September	Call for Expressions of Interest issued
31 October	Outlines for Research Proposals to be submitted by 5pm
November	Trust evaluation of Expressions of Interest and further discussion with shortlisted parties how the research might be developed around priority areas

Information on the Trust is available from www.uppercluthalakestrust.org.