

# Application for Funding

## Express Applications



### About this form

This form enables you to make an express application for funding from the Provincial Growth Fund. The form is designed solely for applications under \$100,000 relating to planning, feasibility studies, business cases, or training / capability. If your application is for anything else, please use one of the other forms available on the [Provincial Growth Fund website](#)

### Completing this form

Please complete all sections. Square brackets and italics indicate guides. Please see the PGF website for further support.

### Submitting your application

All completed forms must be emailed to [PGF@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:PGF@mbie.govt.nz) with "PGF Express" in the subject line.

### Public disclosure

In the interests of public transparency, successful applications may be published by the Provincial Development Unit. Commercially sensitive and personal information will be redacted by reference to the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Please identify any information in your application that you regard as commercially sensitive.

## Part 1: Key Details

1. Proposal Title:

2. Please provide the details of the applicant organisation/entity for which funding is being requested:

<b>Legal Name:</b>	Waitaki District Council (WDC)
<b>Entity Type:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Registered Offices / Place of Business:</b>	20 Thames Street, Oamaru 9400
<b>Identifying Number:</b>	GST # 50-020-339
<b>Organisation's Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.waitaki.govt.nz">www.waitaki.govt.nz</a>

3. Please provide the contact details for a person as a key point of contact):

<b>Contact Name:</b>	Gerard Quinn, Economic Development Manager		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:gquinn@waitaki.govt.nz">gquinn@waitaki.govt.nz</a>	<b>Telephone:</b>	Privacy of natural persons

4. Please describe the principal role or activity of the applicant organisation.

5. This project will be based in the region of:

6. What is the activity / funding start and end date?

<b>Start Date:</b>	Commercial Information	<b>Completion Date:</b>	Commercial Information
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7. The total value of this application's activity is set out below (Provincial Growth Fund funding requests must be under \$100,000 for an Express Application):

Source of Funding:	\$ (excluding GST)
Provincial Growth Fund Funding (through this application)	\$ 90 000 (up to)
[please specify all other sources of funding]	\$ Commercial Info from Waitaki District Council
Total:	\$ Commercial Inform
Please Note – additional effort and in-kind support will be provided by project partners	Value \$ Commercial Information

**Part B: Project Description**

8. This application is: *“a stand-alone activity”*  *or* *“in support of a wider project”*
9. If successful, is there likely to be a follow on application? Yes:  No:
10. Please explain the project / activity for which funding is being sought:

Waitaki District Council (WDC) is acting as the lead facilitator in a project to achieve UNESCO Global Geopark status for the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark (the WWG) in the Waitaki District, Otago. Currently, there is no other UNESCO Global Geopark in Australasia. In May 2018, after receiving Expressions of Interest from around New Zealand, the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO nominated the WWG to UNESCO as being the only Geopark application worthy of forwarding to the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris. The Expression of Interest which won the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark the opportunity to apply to UNESCO for full recognition is attached and can also be found at <https://www.whitestonegeopark.nz/unesco-eoi> .

Global Geoparks are unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed within an holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Geoparks extend their geological focus by telling the story of how the geography of the Geopark has shaped the lives and culture of its inhabitants. The WWG will use its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the District’s natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using the Earth’s resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing natural disaster-related risks. The variety of rocks and outcrops within the WWG makes it an excellent location for training students in geological mapping. By raising awareness of the importance of the area’s geological, Māori and non-Māori heritage in both history and society today, the WWG will provide recognition of indigenous histories as told through the land and oral histories, giving local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthening their identification with the District. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses will be stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the nationally and internationally significant geosites within the WGG are protected.

UNESCO branding will mark the WWG as a special destination in which visitors will be exposed to extraordinary geology, geomorphology, Māori and non-Māori culture, heritage and history. Research undertaken by  Commercial Information and educational work delivered by  Commercial Information  show just how outstanding the fossils found in the WWG are. The WWG will provide a rich array of educational and experiential choices for both domestic and international visitors. They will learn about the gescience associated with natural hazards, climate change, sustainability and environmental protection. Visitors will learn about the impact of the unique geology of the district upon the built heritage, visual culture and cultural identity of Waitakians. Geogastronomy will be advanced - based upon an appreciation of the unique characters of the WWG’s vineyards, craft brewers, artisan foods. Excellent restaurants will serve produce grown from the limestone soils of the district. Geoglider over the alpine lakes, geocopter tours, heritage tours, and other activities will intersect with New Zealand's longest national cycleway (the Alps 2 Ocean).

The achievement of UNESCO Global Geopark status will result in increased scientific, educational and cultural outputs within the district and New Zealand, and the increase in tourism will lead to a transformational change in economic activity in tourist-related sectors locally, regionally, and nationally. The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust will be signed into record on 13 August, and this Trust will establish a management company to administer the WWG within the standards required by UNESCO.

Local and national partners accept, on a prima facie basis, that the WWG will deliver increased scientific, cultural and economic outputs for New Zealand. The creation of the Validation business case will provide a more robust and detailed case for Government and the private sector to invest in both the creation of the WWG and the subsequent building of facilities and businesses which take the WWG to the next level – that of an internationally renowned scientific, cultural and tourist destination.

This Project is to engage an expert consultant who will

- identify, evaluate, rank and quantify the benefits of the WWG project, with particular emphasis on the economic benefits to businesses and communities within and around the Geopark identify the industry sectors which will most benefit from achieving UNESCO Global Geopark status, including estimates of how many jobs will be created
- identify the likely revenue streams to make the WWG operation self-funding
- identify the optimum commercial model to ensure WWG's financial viability, which complies with UNESCO requirements and the local and national commercial and economic context. This will include identification of the potential opportunities for investment in facilities and operations associated with the WWG, along with consideration of the investment roles of the governing Trust and other possible sole or partnership-based investors in relation to such investments.

This capability does not exist within Waitaki District Council or Tourism Waitaki. WDC has not received other funding from Government to pursue this opportunity.

A more in-depth understanding of the overall WWG project can be gained from the documents attached to this application :

- The Expression of Interest which won WWG the nomination to apply to UNESCO for accreditation
- A two page description of the geological significance of the WWG

Also attached is

- The Request for Quotes to provide the Validation Business Case

Attachments withheld in full - commercial information

11. How does the project align with the objectives of the Provincial Growth Fund, and what benefits will be delivered:

*[Explain and describe how the project will lift productivity in the region, using the headings below. For more information, please see the criteria for the Fund at Appendix 2]*

**Link with fund and government outcomes**

more permanent jobs

Overseas experience with UNESCO Global Geoparks, and local experience with such initiatives as the International Dark Sky project in the MacKenzie Basin, has shown that tourist numbers and visitor nights are boosted when a destination becomes known internationally known when it carries a recognised 'badge' such as UNESCO Global Geopark accreditation. Increased jobs will result from a dramatic increase in visitor numbers. The Validation business case will quantify the increase in jobs.

benefits to the community and different groups in the community

The WWG will increase the social capital of the central South island and beyond through its extension into tourism, education and scientific value chains. UNESCO Global Geoparks are established through a bottom-up process involving all relevant local and regional stakeholders and authorities in the area (e.g. land owners, community groups, tourism providers, indigenous people, and local organisations). This process requires firm commitment by local communities, a strong local multiple partnership with long-term public and political support, and the development of a comprehensive strategy that will meet the communities' goals while showcasing and protecting the area's geological heritage.

Over 100 sites with geological, cultural and educational significance are located throughout the Waitaki District, from Clay Cliffs to Palmerston. With the awarding of UNESCO Global Geopark status, increased visitor numbers will require world class facilities to be built at or near the prime sites, thus distributing the economic gains around smaller locales within Waitaki district. This will provide new jobs in a number of smaller communities such as Duntroon, Kurow, Otematata and Palmerston. This will relieve some of the tourism and infrastructure pressure being experienced by established destinations such as Queenstown and Mackenzie.

Developing the WWG as an international tourism attraction builds on over seventeen years of volunteer work given to the District and New Zealand by, amongst others, the **Commercial Information** landowners, **Commercial Information** and their supporters. These community volunteers will still be able to contribute and participate in the operation of the WWG, but with the support of a professional and adequately resourced Geopark management company.

#### increased utilisation and returns for Māori from their asset base

UNESCO Global Geoparks are not just about geology – the district, adjacent regions and New Zealand as a whole will benefit from the scientific, educational and cultural opportunities which the WWG will showcase to the world in an authentic yet sophisticated manner. Exploratory discussions with **Commercial Information** have shown there is an interest from iwi to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO Global Geopark status, the establishment of the WWG operation, and to consider subsequent investment in tourism-related facilities.

#### the sustainability of natural assets, climate change

UNESCO requires all UNESCO Global Geoparks to have active scientific and educational programmes which advance sustainable development. The WWG has secured support from **Commercial Information** and the **Commercial Information** to develop research and education programmes which address environmental sustainability, geohazards and climate change.

#### clear evidence of public benefits

Substantial benefits (including reputational enhancement) will be brought to the whole New Zealand tourism, climate change, conservation, biodiversity and culture & heritage sectors, which are priority sectors for Government. Creation of the only UNESCO Global Geopark in Australasia and the Pacific profiles New Zealand on the world stage in a way which is consistent with Government's domestic and international relations manifesto.

### **Additionality**

#### demonstrated benefit of central Government investment or support

The Validation business case will quantify the (prima-facie accepted) returns to central Government through raised international profile and standing, distribution of visitors to regional and provincial New Zealand, contribution to extension of the peak tourism season throughout the year, and tax take.

#### acts as a catalyst to unlock a region's productivity potential

The business case will form the basis for likely significant private sector and iwi investment into facilities, products and services associated with the WWG operation. It will provide diversification of the Waitaki and wider New Zealand economies. It will create a reason for visitors to choose to come to Waitaki.

### **Connected to regional stakeholders and frameworks**

#### relevant regional and local support

This Project has the support of both the Otago and Canterbury Mayoral Forums.

#### alignment with, or support for the outcomes of, any relevant regional development plan, and Māori development

The development of the WWG is consistent with the Regional Visitor element of the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy 2017-19. It will support CREDS to grow sustainable tourism that focuses on the high end market, encourages a wider seasonal spread, disperses visitors across the region and South island, and keeps them here longer. Tourism is an obvious theme in the Otago Regional Economic Development Strategy, which is currently being developed.

Exploratory discussion with iwi has occurred, who are supportive of the project as they see that it will create increased profile, prosperity and employment for the district and for New Zealand. **Commercial Information** have indicated that the WWG aligns with their intended direction, in terms of cultural visibility, job creation and investment strategy. Not only does the WWG provide a vehicle for iwi investment, the elevated profile and accessibility of pa and village

sites, Māori rock art and other sites of significance to Māori, it will increase cultural interaction and boost the story telling of Māori connection with the land.

demonstrated improvement in regional connectedness (within and between regions)

The WWG will provide a connected and complementary tourist offering within the central South Island, reducing pressure on current tourism choke points and areas of under pressure infrastructure.

Initial interaction with several local businesses has resulted in their providing operational expenditure and in kind support to secure success in the effort to acquire UNESCO Global Geopark accreditation.

**Governance, risk management, and project execution**

evidence of robust project governance, risk identification/management and decision-making systems and an implementation plan appropriate to the size, scale and nature of the project

The Validation business case provides an essential component of the larger WWG establishment project. It provides robust analysis to ensure that the WWG is sustainable after the conclusion of PGF funding. The WWG establishment project, which is being facilitated by the Waitaki District Council, has extensive processes and controls to ensure that:

- benefits and risks are clearly identified and quantified, depending on the scale of the initiative
- potential exit gates and stop/go points are identified, along with a clear exit strategy
- whole of life costs (capital and operating) are clearly identified
- dependencies, synergies and leverage afforded by other district, regional and national strategies and projects are identified
- future ownership options for capital projects, including responsibility for maintenance and further development are identified.

Further detail on management of this Validation business case project are contained in s14.

**Part C: Delivery of this Activity**

[Please note – this section refers to the actual activity associated with this application.]

12. What are the proposed deliverables if funding is approved?

*[Please use the following table where appropriate, consider what deliverables will be provided, when, and whether there are any payments associated with them. If it is a single deliverable with single payment, just use one line]*

#	Deliverable	Due Date	Associated Payment (ex-GST)
1	Delivery of the business case	Commercial Information	\$ Commercial Inform
2		Click here to enter a date.	\$
3		Click here to enter a date.	\$
4		Click here to enter a date.	\$
5			

13. Please provide a breakdown of the costs of the project:

*[Note that figures in this table must align with other figures provided]*

Cost Description:	\$ (excluding GST)
Fees to a contractor to provide the Impact & Viability case	\$ Commercial Inform
<b>Total</b>	\$ Commercial Inform

14. Governance: Please explain how you will deliver and manage the activity:

*[We would like to know about the following areas where relevant:  
How will the activity be managed within your organisation?]*

Gerard Quinn of WDC will manage the Request for Quotes process. WDC is experienced and capable at assessing responses from such processes. A WWG Project Team, comprised of relevant and engaged stakeholders, is already established and will contribute to the evaluation process.

*What involvement is required from the Provincial Development Unit?*

Nil

*What procurement process has been undertaken (i.e. a selection of a provider), or will be, and how will that be managed?*

Attached is a copy of the Request for Quotes to be sent to a set of qualified providers. WDC is experienced and capable at assessing responses from such processes. A WWG Project Team, comprised of relevant and engaged stakeholders, is already established and will contribute to the evaluation process. Attachment withheld - commercial information

*What project management practices will be in place?*

WDC has extensive project governance and management procedures and relevant experience to successfully manage this project. The key personnel involved in ensuring that the Validation business case is delivered to the required standard are:

- Fergus Power, CEO, WDC
- Gerard Quinn, Economic Development Manager, WDC
- Margaret Munro, GM Tourism Waitaki
- Mike Gray, Chair of Vanished World Inc Society

15. What risks are associated with the delivery of this activity?

#	Risk	Mitigation approach	Rating
1	If the contractor's price is not accurate, then additional funding may be required	- WDC has obtained an estimate of the size and likely cost of the case from a credible tourism industry professional	L
2	If engagement with stakeholders is not achieved, then an accurate case may not be constructed	- WDC has already socialised the larger project with relevant stakeholders, and received strong support	L
3		-	

**Part D: Declarations**

16. Is the applicant or the contracting entity insolvent or subject to any insolvency action, administration or other legal proceedings? Yes:  No:
17. Is any individual involved in the application, the proposed contracting entity or the project, an undischarged bankrupt? Yes:  No:
18. Is any individual under investigation for, or has any individual been convicted of, any offence that has a bearing on the operation of the project? Yes:  No:

19. Are there any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest that the applicant or any of the key personnel have in relation to this project. Yes:  No:

“In a small country like ours, conflicts of interest in our working lives are natural and unavoidable. The existence of a conflict of interest does not necessarily mean that someone has done something wrong, and it need not cause problems. It just needs to be identified and managed carefully...”

<https://www.oag.govt.nz/2007/conflicts-public-entities>

If you answered “Yes” to any of the above, please provide a description below:

By completing the details below, the applicant makes the following declaration about its application for Provincial Growth Fund funding for the project (“application”):

- A. I have read, understand and agree to the Terms and Conditions of applying for Provincial Growth Fund funding which are attached as Appendix 1;
- B. The statements in the application are true and the information provided is complete and correct, and there have been no misleading statements or omissions of any relevant facts nor any misrepresentations made;
- C. I have secured all appropriate authorisations to submit the application, to make the statements and to provide the information in the application;
- D. I consent to this application being publically released if funding is approved. I have identified the commercially sensitive and personal information.
- E. The applicant warrants that it has no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest (except any already declared in the application) in submitting the application, or entering into a contract to carry out the project. Where a conflict of interest arises during the application or assessment process, the applicant will report it immediately to the Provincial Development Unit by emailing [PGF@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:PGF@mbie.govt.nz); and
- F. I understand that the falsification of information, supplying misleading information, or the suppression of material information in this application, may result in the application being eliminated from the assessment process and may be grounds for termination of any contract awarded as a result of this application process.

**Full name:**

Fergus Power

**Title / position:**

Chief Executive, WDC

**Signature:**

Privacy of natural persons



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**Date:**

Commercial Information

