

Joan Fernie Charitable Trust Funding Policy

1. Introduction

Joan Fernie Charitable Trust (JFCT) is a Charitable Farming Trust established through the generous gifting of three Hawke's Bay farms by the late Miss Joan Fernie.

The Trust is committed to supporting our Hawke's Bay community by prioritising education for our young people, and the wellbeing and development of our local Hawke's Bay communities. The Trust's funding policy sets out the principles, funding priorities, eligibility criteria, application process, and assessment framework that guide the allocation and distribution of the Trust's financial resources.

The Trust operates as a responsible and transparent steward of its resources, ensuring funding decisions contribute to long-term, meaningful outcomes for Hawke's Bay's people, land, economy, and environment.

2. Purpose of the Funding Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Provide clear guidance to potential applicants.
- Ensure funding is allocated in alignment with the Trust's mission and strategic priorities.
- Maintain a transparent, fair, and accountable funding process.
- Support initiatives that create positive, sustainable outcomes for the Hawke's Bay region.

3. Funding Principles

The Trust's funding decisions will be guided by the following principles:

1. **Alignment with Purpose:** Funding will support initiatives that align with the Trust's charitable objectives and contribute to the wellbeing of Hawke's Bay communities.
2. **Community Benefit:** Initiatives must demonstrate clear benefits to Hawke's Bay communities.

3. **Agricultural Alignment:** Priority given to initiatives that connect with the Trust's farming heritage and support the development and sustainability of the primary sector.
4. **Sustainability:** Preference will be given to initiatives with long-term viability and sustainable outcomes.
5. **Partnership:** The Trust values collaborative approaches, including partnerships with other funders, iwi, hapū, community organisations, educational institutions, and healthcare providers.
6. **Equity and Inclusion:** The Trust is committed to supporting diverse communities, particularly those who are underrepresented or face barriers to participation.
7. **Area of Operation:** Priority consideration will be given to initiatives that benefit communities located close to JFCT's farming operations.

The Trust is open to considering applications relating to the operational costs of registered charities.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- Be a registered charity, not for profit organisation or educational institution.
- Operate within the Hawke's Bay region or deliver initiatives or services that directly benefit the region or its residents.
- Demonstrate sound governance and financial management.
- Submit a complete funding application, including all required documentation.

5. Priority Funding Areas

All eligible applications will be considered, with priority given to initiatives that contribute to one or more of the following priority funding areas:

5.1 Community Development

- Initiatives that strengthen rural community cohesion, leadership, and capacity.
- Support for rural infrastructure and services that enhance community resilience
- Initiatives that will enhance or improve the community of Hawke's Bay, including addressing rural-specific challenges:
 - Increasing rural connectivity, access to services, and climate resilience.

- Improving education, training, or employment opportunities.
- Enhancing social inclusion and cultural participation.
- Promoting environmental sustainability and public spaces.
- Support for vulnerable or disadvantaged groups to ensure equitable access to services and opportunities, particularly in rural and farming communities.

5.2 Education & Skills Development

- By providing scholarships, bursaries and awards which may lead to becoming future land managers, primary sector workers, and rural leaders.
- By providing support for rural schools and educational initiatives that prepare students for careers in agriculture and related industries.
- Skills development programs for existing farmers and agricultural workers.
- By advancing the education of students attending rural and/or low-decile schools by providing educational equipment and resources.

5.3 Sustainable Agriculture & Environment

- Initiatives promoting sustainable farming practices and environmental stewardship.
- Research and development projects focused on agricultural innovation and sustainability.
- Programmes supporting climate resilience in farming communities.
- Environmental restoration projects on rural land.

5.4 Health & Wellbeing

- Initiatives that enhance physical, mental, and social health outcomes, including improved healthcare access, particularly in rural and farming communities.

6. Exclusions

As a general rule, the Trust will not fund:

- Political, lobbying, or advocacy activities.
- Retrospective funding for initiatives already completed.
- Debt repayment or legal expenses.

7. Funding Amounts

Funding amounts will vary depending on project scale, scope, and impact.

- The Trust will consider funding grants of any amount up to a maximum of \$50,000.
- The Trust may fully or partially fund an initiative at its discretion.
- The Trust may opt to co-fund initiatives with other funders at its discretion.

8. Application Process

8.1 Application Rounds

Funding rounds may be held annually, with dates publicly advertised.

8.2 Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- A fully completed application form.
- Detailed initiative or project proposal and outcomes.
- Budget, including income and expenditure.
- Most recent financial statements.
- Governance structure and key personnel.
- Letters of support (if applicable).

8.3 Submission

Applications must be submitted by the stated closing date.

9. Assessment Process

Applications will be assessed by the Trust's Funding Committee. The Committee will consist of nominated JFCT trustees who may decide to co-opt an external advisor based on community funding expertise and knowledge.

Criteria for funding will be based on:

- Alignment with the Trust's purpose and funding priorities.
- Demonstrated community benefit and impact.
- Project feasibility and sustainability.
- Governance and organisational capability.
- Financial accountability and value for money.

The Trust may request additional information or clarification during the assessment process.

10. Decision Making

All funding decisions are made at the sole discretion of the Trust's Funding Committee.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by email.

The Trust's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

11. Accountability and Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. Use funds only for the approved purpose.
2. Submit a progress and financial report.
3. Provide project update/s, including relevant commentary and/or imagery, to support the Trust's communications and marketing objectives, as appropriate.
4. Notify the Trust of any significant changes to the project.

The Trust reserves the right to audit projects and/or request the return of funds if terms are breached.

12. Policy Review

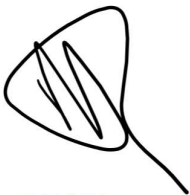
This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years or as required by the Trust Board to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

DATE:

25th September 2025

Signed:



CHAIR:

Marcus Bousfield (Deputy Chair)