

FAQ for Freshwater Champions

What are the benefits of being nominated for the Freshwater Champions Aotearoa New Zealand?

Nominations provide an opportunity to:

- Share positive stories that recognise and celebrate efforts by the communities surrounding their waterways improve our freshwater health.
- Reflect on freshwater restoration and management achievements, as well as what work still needs to be done.
- Acknowledge the efforts of voluntary groups, share experience, and connect with experts.
- Provide recognition, profile and credibility at local, regional and national level for those doing the mahi. This will help when making funding applications.

Event organisers are also working with sponsors to finalise some tangible recognition.

Who and what mahi can be nominated?

We would like to celebrate a diversity of champions and welcome nominations across the following:

- Actions undertaken by collectives, community groups or individuals.
- Māori-led initiatives.
- Youth/Rangatahi-engaged initiatives.
- Actions to improve rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries.
- Rural or urban initiatives.
- Large catchment or intensive local actions.
- Initiatives to improve freshwater health or wider biodiversity.
- Long established or emerging groups.

What supporting material is needed?

At this stage we are just after nominations. However, if you want to make our job easier and have ready access to evidence to support your nomination please provide this in electronic form and we will give this information to the assessors. Please don't send hard copies of documents. Refer to the assessment criteria on the [Freshwater Champions webpage](#) for further information

Who are the assessors?

Entries are assessed by an independent panel. Please refer to the [Freshwater Champions webpage](#) to learn more about our assessors.

Assessors will absent themselves from any nomination where they may have a conflict of interest. They may consult independent experts to verify information in the nomination.

What happens after I submit my nomination?

Once your nomination is submitted, an automated email confirming receipt will be sent to your nominated address, and to the person you have nominated. You will be contacted again in November when we start the assessment process. At this stage, we may ask for more information and, in some cases, will also have a phone conversation with the person being nominated to confirm details.

When will the Freshwater Champions be announced?

We will fund travel and accommodation for up to two representatives of each finalist champions to attend a special celebratory event in Wellington. The event is planned for 23 May 2024 and will comprise three parts:

- Champions – To celebrate the successes, innovations and efforts of people working in New Zealand's freshwater.
- Forum – To demonstrate thought leadership deepen relationships and share knowledge with a gathering of the champions plus agencies, researchers and industry.
- Networking – To mingle, make connections and share experience in an informal setting .

What do I do if I have further questions?

If you have more questions, please contact foundation@cawthron.org.nz