

SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS FUND 2006

Oparara Valley Trust: Development of the Walking Tracks and Facilities in the Oparara Valley

This project will receive a grant of up to \$1.8 million.

In cooperation with the Department of Conservation, the Oparara Valley Project Trust aims to develop the Oparara Valley as an eco-tourism attraction through developing tracks, visitor attractions and associated visitor facilities.

The Oparara Valley, which is in the Kahurangi National Park, offers magnificent opportunities for recreation and tourism in an area with high scenic and environmental values.

It has the potential to become a tourist icon, enhancing the 'trail' of tourist attractions and opportunities on the West Coast of the South Island and adding to New Zealand's reputation as a world-class visitor experience.

The grant is to cover track development, facilities and historic site enhancement.

Improved access to the area will provide high quality visitor and recreational opportunities, including access to historic gold mining sites and to an internationally significant landform – the Oparara Arches. It will enable a range of visitors, both domestic and international, to visit some of the many attractions in the area, and will give visitors a better understanding of the natural values and human history of this remote and beautiful part of New Zealand.