

19 June 2019



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Ms Sally Pearce  
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File ref: OMS 10 02 19  
MMcC:LB

By email: [coordinator@enm.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@enm.org.nz)

Dear Ms Pearce

## **SUBMISSION TO 2019-20 ANNUAL PLAN**

Thank you for your submission to Horizons Regional Council's 2019-20 Annual Plan.

This year we received 57 submissions, all of which were carefully considered by Council. It is always a challenge to balance the diverse concerns and interests in our region and the submission process is an important one for Councillors to better understand the views of the people they represent.

Your submission to Council's 2019-20 Annual Plan related to:

### **Land and Water Management**

We thank Environment Network Manawātū for their endorsement of Horizons ongoing commitment to our Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI). We acknowledge the support of the new funding that has been secured and the support to take full advantage of the One Billion Trees (1BT) project. Horizons is actively seeking funding for works in the region through the 1BT fund in partnership with landowners and other Regional Councils.

The submission notes that it is hard to gauge if the current level of activity is sufficient and seeks that Horizons shares more of the information from the modelling of SLUI outcomes and impacts of climate change. These topics form part of the Horizons State of Environment Report 2019 that was released in May 2019 and reported on in more detail at the June Catchment Operations Committee meeting. These two public items will provide further transparency around the modelling that has been undertaken.

Thank you for your submission endorsing the comments made by the Manawātū River Source to the Sea group. Your submission welcomes the ongoing focus on water monitoring and notes the increasing awareness of the issue of plastic in waterways. Horizons will continue to monitor the region's waterways and has supported through the Manawātū River Leaders' Accord a community project being delivered by the Manawātū River Source to the Sea group around education and removal of plastics from waterways. This work has been enabled through both ratepayer funds and funds from Central Government via the Freshwater Improvement Fund. A further community project round will be opened for projects later in 2019 and Environment Network Manawātū may like to consider applying for funds for a project around these issues.

### **Biosecurity and Biodiversity Management**

Thank you for your submission endorsing the submission of Manawātū Source to the Sea around biodiversity and biosecurity, and your support for Horizons increased investment in possum control in areas where OSPRI are ceasing to

Kairanga

Marton

Palmerston North

Taihape

Taumarunui

Wanganui

Woodville

operate. Your submission outlines that you would like to explore opportunities to attract Predator Free 2050 to the Manawatū, Horizons welcomes discussion on this. Please contact Jon Roygard - [jon.roygard@horizons.govt.nz](mailto:jon.roygard@horizons.govt.nz) to discuss this further.

Thank you for your submission around the bush remnants and wetlands programme. Your submission seeks some clarity around the numbers of bush remnants and wetlands that are actively managed. Horizons' Environment Committee reporting provides some further information on this and we acknowledge your submission requesting more emphasis on these remnants and in particular the wetlands which might help to mitigate some of the climate change impacts. Horizons is currently reviewing its biodiversity programme including gathering more information on its bush remnants and wetlands to inform the operational delivery of the biodiversity implementation programme. Further information on this is provided in the recent Environment Committee report which can be found at the link below and our 2019 State of Environment report.

<http://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Agenda-Reports/Environment-Committee-2019-13-03/1924%20Annex%20C%20Biodiversity%20Activity.pdf>

### **Regional Leadership and Governance**

Council has embarked on developing a climate change strategy, which will be a focus for Council over the next 12 months

### **Transport**

Support for improvements and continued evaluation of bus services is noted. Regarding the Highbury/Takaro trial, Council is focused on ensuring better value for money with current services and will not commence this proposed trial. Instead, we will review the Palmerston North and Feilding services to ensure they are fit for purpose, enhance the existing Levin to Palmerston North service by adding a twice weekly off peak service, and use the data gained from the new Electronic Ticketing System to continue to refine the existing Palmerston North services.

Support for the work underway to continue the Capital Connection service is noted. Horizons is working with Greater Wellington Regional Council, the New Zealand Transport Agency and KiwiRail on future options for enhanced rail services between Palmerston North and Wellington.

The Council's 2019-20 Annual Plan is available on our website, [www.horizons.govt.nz/publications-feedback/the-annual-plan](http://www.horizons.govt.nz/publications-feedback/the-annual-plan) .

Yours sincerely



Michael McCartney  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Horizons Regional Council**