

SUBMISSION OF:

Manawatū River Source to Sea, Biodiversity Cluster Group of Environment Network
Manawatu

TO:

Palmerston North City Council Draft Annual Plan 2019-20

Title	Chair of Manawatū River Source to Sea, Biodiversity Cluster Group
Full Name	Alastair Cole
Name of Organisation	Manawatū River Source to Sea, Biodiversity Cluster Group of Environment Network Manawatu
Address for Service	C/- Madz BatachEl Administrator Environment Network Manawatu, PO Box 1271, Level 2, 74 The Square, Palmerston North
Post Code	4440
Telephone	06 355 0126 (ENM Office)
Mobile	021 168 4353 (Alastair Cole)
Email	sourcetosea@enm.org.nz

Speaking to our submission:

Manawatū River Source to Sea will speak to our submission. Our preferred timeslot is 9am - 11am Friday May 10. Second preference is 12pm – 2pm Friday May 10.

BACKGROUND

Manawatū River Source to Sea (Source to Sea) is a community-led and catchment-wide initiative focused on providing positive outcomes for our community, from the headwaters of the Manawatū River in the Ruahine Ranges, through to the confluence at Foxton Estuary in Horowhenua.

The positive outcomes include:

- Enhancing biodiversity, both flora and fauna;
- Building awareness and capability through citizen science;
- Providing recreational and leisure opportunities;
- Economic opportunities and outcomes, including sustainable tourism;

- Social and cultural well-being.

This community initiative has been developed by the Biodiversity Cluster, a subset of 25 ENM member groups. It is closely aligned with Palmerston North City Council's Goal 4, an Eco-City; especially with the Biodiversity Plan, and with parts of the Three Waters Plan and the Waste Plan. It is also well aligned with Goal 2, a Creative & Exciting City.

SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the PNCC Annual Plan 2019-2020.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Council for the Strategic Priority Grant that has been granted to support the further development of the Manawatu River Source to Sea programme of community-led collective action.

We look forward to continuing to work with Council towards common goals. We encourage Council to consider Source to Sea as a strategic partner in the implementation of the Eco City goal, particularly in relation to the Biodiversity Strategy, the Three Waters Plan (in particular Nature Calls) and the Waste Minimisation Plan. The community sector can help the council achieve its goals through community engagement (including citizen's science), maximising the opportunities for collective action and by leveraging funding.

Pre-consultation Opportunities

We encourage Council to engage with Source to Sea ahead of the usual consultation process in areas of major interest:

Nature Calls

Nature Calls is of high interest to the ENM network, and in particular to members of Source to Sea, of which several groups have a strong focus on protecting freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

We support the council in its commitment to continue engaging with the community from this early stage onward, and look forward to hearing more about the process at our SGM on May 8.

Te Āpiti Masterplan - Promoting a Te Āpiti UNESCO Geopark

We have a strong interest in the Te Āpiti Masterplan, especially the biodiversity aspects and we are keen to engage with the governance group or its representatives during the pre-consultation phase.

Source to Sea is very keen to further explore the potential for a UNESCO Geopark to raise the profile of Te Āpiti:

- Raise awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today.
- Give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.

- Generate new sources of revenue through sustainable geo-tourism.
- Protect geological resources of the area.

The Geopark Framework provides a great framework for looking at biodiversity, education and cultural heritage values as well as geological values. It also aligns with Treasury's four capitals: Natural, Human, Social and Financial/Physical.

Co-funding of community initiatives

Building on our insights from the Palmy Plastic Pollution Challenge, Source to Sea is currently considering applying to the Waste Minimisation Fund - to undertake more work on monitoring plastic pollution, raise awareness and engagement and contribute to solutions. Such an application would require co-funding.

We submit that the value of co-funding for community initiatives such as this be factored into Council's budgets, particularly in the area of plastic pollution. Community predator control initiatives (e.g. Predator Free 2050) are another area where Council co-funding with community could bring significant external funding into the City.

A holistic approach to climate change

We fully support the Council's work to develop an action plan to reduce carbon emissions, programme 1526 - "Low carbon roadmap development" and see this as a high priority.

Climate change is an urgent matter which will impact on us all as well as our natural environment. It requires engagement with the whole community and the integration of all activities including economic development.

As noted in our submission to the 10 Year Plan, Article 2 of the 2015 Paris Agreement calls for "making finance flows consistent with a pathway to low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development." This is a **productive** investment for a more sustainable future for our region, its businesses and future generations. A well-considered transition could boost long term economic output if we include the avoidance of climate related damage. The net effect on combined GDP is 4.7% higher than "business as usual" by 2050¹

Biodiversity enhancement

We support Council's budgets covering biodiversity improvements in the Ashhurst Domain, animal and plant pest control, predator control, freshwater body improvements and for Green Corridors, where the Range to River group is developing biodiversity corridors along the Turitea Stream and in the Aokautere Gullies.

We would also be highly supportive of the development of biodiversity corridors in neighbouring gullies and streams, including in Moonshine Valley, the land between Polson Hill and the Pahiatua Track and into the Kahuterawa Valley.

¹ Figures are from the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate (with modelling by the OECD) and were highlighted in the recent Dominion Post article:
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/103141057/we-must-spend-more-green-to-get-more-green>

We see potential for further planting on the northern side of the river as well, especially in the less leafy suburbs.

We note that Council has a capital budget (\$21K) for planting natives (Programme 1077). Given the importance of native trees for biodiversity enhancement and the benefits to human wellbeing, as noted in the City-Wide Vegetation Framework, we suggest Council considers increasing its budget for planting natives to allow for increased levels of planting as well as associated costs of maintenance of these areas.

Again building on our experience with the Palmy Plastic Pollution Challenge Source to Sea is keen to explore how we can work with PNCC, Rangitaane, Horizons and others on urban stream restoration.

Overall an increase in planting would provide both biodiversity benefits and could be part of the Councils plan to reduce carbon emissions.

Manawatu River Shared Pathway Ashhurst to City

A budget has been allocated to work on the Ashhurst to Riverside Drive Shared Pathway along the Manawatu River (programme 1225). Along with ENM we support this spending and are very keen to see the pathway finally completed.

CONCLUSION

Manawatū River Source to Sea is looking forward to working together on shared goals such as enhancing biodiversity and engaging with and bringing benefits to the community.