Environment Network Manawatū

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Advocacy Policy

Status of document

Presented to the ENM Board for adoption on 24 March 2026

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Next Review Date: March 2029

Signed as adopted, and issued by ENM Chair on: 31 Mar 2026

Rebecca Bell

Purpose

Environment Network Manawatū (ENM) is mandated under clause **1.5.2b** of its Constitution to advocate for ecological sustainability and matters of agreed environmental significance. This policy outlines ENM's commitments and principles for advocacy and clarifies when ENM may represent member groups.

Scope

This document covers policy for:

1. Making representative submissions,
2. Consulting members on representative submissions,
3. Supporting groups who wish to make their own submissions,
4. Informal consultation to territorial authorities,
5. Informal consultation to Government, political parties and political candidates,
6. Giving voice and lending support to environmental issues.

Policy

As capacity permits,

- The ENM Board will maintain an active interest in causes where ENM may work with member organisations to play an advocacy role (such as changes in government legislation which may impact the environment in our area).
- ENM will communicate emergent environmental concerns/issues with relevant stakeholders and recommend advocacy.

- ENM will also support our member groups in their own endeavours in relationship-building, informal consultation, and pre-consultation.

1. Making Representative Submissions

In keeping with its purpose to advocate, ENM may make written and/or verbal submissions that represent member groups in the following contexts:

- any consultation sought from local government including the annual plans and budgets of the Regional, City and District Council's in our catchment area;
- any consultation sought from central government that have an impact on the local environment and the local environmental sector; and
- any plans that are being consulted outside of formal notified processes, where invited to do so (e.g., informal pre-consultation on PNCC plan changes).

2. Consulting Members on Representative Submissions

ENM invites members to provide input into submissions made on behalf of the network, and ENM will endeavour to provide adequate time for this input. If it is not possible to invite input, then members will be advised of the reasons for the lack of opportunity.

3. Supporting Groups Who Wish to Make their Own Submissions

ENM may provide support to member groups who wish to make submissions in their own name, including submissions under the Resource Management Act. The following are examples of the support ENM may provide:

- Notice to members of publicly notified submission opportunities (including resource consent applications).
- Circulation within our network and/or through our website of information and draft submissions provided by member groups.
- A list of experts in relevant areas who agree to support our member groups for submissions.
- Circulation within our network and/or through our website of information provided by ENM staff or volunteers on such submissions.

ENM may support the submissions of other organisations. This support could include:

- Adding a logo or signature to a submission made by another organisation, where the submission aligns with ENM's views.
- Providing feedback on submissions prepared by an organisation to which ENM belongs.
- Developing joint submissions in collaboration with partner organisations.

4. Informal Consultation to Territorial Authorities

ENM recognises the importance of relationship-building, informal consultation, and pre-consultation with territorial authorities, including local and regional councils and iwi and hapū.

We aim to be in close communication with councillors and council officers on an ongoing basis, not just when submissions are due. Similarly, we will actively seek opportunities to build ongoing relationships with iwi and hapū that are over and above the consultation requirements of individual projects. We recognise that there may be limits to our capacity or opportunities to develop this type of relationship at any given time, however we will work steadily and with commitment to build capacity in this area.

5.Informal Consultation to Government, Political Parties, and Political Candidates

Within the parameters set by our policy on Making Representative Submissions (above), ENM can take a role in expressing views to central government and political parties regarding issues or proposed policies and legislation that will have regional environmental impact.

ENM is non-partisan. When ENM communicates with political parties or candidates, and when ENM supports pre-election forums of any sort, it will do so in a way that provides equal opportunity to all parties and candidates. ENM has no obligation to ensure that all parties and candidates make use of these opportunities.

6. Giving Voice and Lending Support to Environmental Issues

ENM may take a role in expressing views from groups; or independently standing in support of views regarding issues that will have regional or national environmental impact.

Roles and Responsibilities

The General Manager is responsible for managing this policy.

Any staff member who wishes to lend support on behalf of ENM should first discuss their involvement with the General Manager.

The Board has overall responsibility for ensuring that the General Manager is applying the policy.

Related Environment Network Manawatū Documents

- ENM Constitution
- Board Meetings, Decisions and Minutes
- Financial Policy and Procedures
- Financial Delegations of Authority
- Membership Consultation Policy
- Confidential Information Policy
- Conflict of Interest Management Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Media Policy
- Relevant emails/reports
- Operational Advocacy Guidelines