

Manawatū River Source to Sea/ENM Submission

**Draft Submission to
Manawatu District Council 2021 - 2031 Longterm Plan:**

About Manawatū River Source to Sea

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

The positive outcomes include:

- Providing a network/forum for environmental groups to share information, learning and support, collective planning and action;
- Articulating the challenges of individual groups and raising awareness about pests on a large landscape basis: e.g., *Phragmites karka*
- Enhancing biodiversity, both flora and fauna, e.g., the Southern Ruahine Kiwi Habitat Restoration Project will benefit at least another 19 species as it takes an ecosystem approach;
- Building awareness and capability through Citizen Science (e.g., Palmy's Plastic Pollution Challenge) which is nationally recognised and contributes to the development of a nation-wide stream litter data methodology;
- Supporting and encouraging more nature-based experiences;
- Developing social enterprises contributing to economic wellbeing;
- Increased social and cultural wellbeing.

Manawatū River Source to Sea, therefore, is a strategic alliance of environmental organisations that collaborate to increase collective impact on a large landscape scale - city, district, or catchment-wide. This community-led initiative has been developed by a subset of around 30 Environment Network Manawatu (ENM) member groups with a particular interest in biodiversity and freshwater: <https://www.enm.org.nz/Manawat%C5%AB-River-Source-to-Sea>. ENM has more than 60 member groups in total. ENM member groups from the Manawatu District Council include: Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust; Community Fruit Harvest Manawatu; Rangiwhia Environmental Arts Centre Trust; Ruahine Whio Protection Trust; Timona Park Orchard Trust

SUBMISSION

Stormwater

We support actions outlined (p.76) to apply an interdisciplinary approach to stormwater management and ensure new development does not put additional pressure on stormwater network. Existing systems also need to be improved due to the impacts poorly managed stormwater has on streams and other waterways.

Biodiversity

We support areas of native vegetation being protected from development and areas of land within urban areas being set aside for revegetation to meet the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity and the Regional Biodiversity Strategy. (p.270)

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust

We support continued funding and resourcing for the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust to restore biodiversity and protect the podocarp, epiphyte and lichen collections presently established at Kitchener Park (p.303). The Trust joined ENM/ Manawatū River Source to Sea because they need support in raising the alarm about a plant pest: *Phragmites karka*, (a close relation to *Phragmites australis*:- one of the nine NZ nationally listed eradication plants rated by NIWA in 2020 as the biggest threat to aquatic habitats across the whole of NZ), and its threat to waterways, swampland, lowland farmlands, and river estuaries in its proliferation. This weed is already well established in the Whangaehau and Rangitikei catchments and their estuaries. It is also being found in small pockets throughout the Horowhenua region. Now it is in the Mangakino stream and has already spread from there into the Ōroua catchment and is migrating downstream toward the Manawatu river. Its proliferation has significant impacts on River Management, riparian land habitats etc., which will result in higher cost to the community if not addressed upfront. This weed hasn't flowered in the Manawatū and can only be spread by water flow or human activity. As we move more earth moving equipment, and river shingles around the country, more weeds are likely to migrate. We would like work undertaken to ensure *Phragmites karka* is not transferred between locations and eradicated where possible.

Land Protection

The LTP anticipates some changes in land use between years 4 and 10 of the 10 Year Plan, and significant land use change is expected in the District between 2032 and 2051 (p.270). Manawatū River Source to Sea would like to see an increase in the application of Regenerative Organic farming methods to future proof our ability to produce healthy food while also improving the health of our soils and waterways and increasing our resilience to climate change. Rodale Institute's 40-year study comparing conventional and regenerative farming methods provides valuable insights into what is possible.¹

We also advocate for the protection of high-quality soils (Class I and 2 soils) from urban expansion to ensure food can be produced in an environmentally sustainable way for present and future generations.

Transport

We support ensuring that our roads and footpaths are safe to use, while encouraging the community to drive, walk, or cycle for business or pleasure. (p.147)

Climate Change Resilience

We support efforts to build community resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change. As set out in the LTP (p.66) climate change will increase the likelihood of more frequent severe weather events such as storms, floods and droughts, and may affect infrastructure capacity in areas.

¹ Regenerative Organic Agriculture and Climate Change A Down-to-Earth Solution to Global Warming
Rodale Institute