

DRAFT

Submission

To: Palmerston North City Council – Animals and Bees Bylaw.

Contact Details:

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Overview:

A submission on behalf of Ruahine Kiwi, a project of Environment Network Manawatū regarding the aspect of the proposal linked to cats.

Background:

ENM exists to connect and inspire communities for environmental action. We are the environment hub for the Manawatū region providing sector leadership, building capacity and capability, and creating community.

Understanding that all life is part of a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem our vision is that the ecological and human communities in the Manawatū River catchment are living in harmony.

We work strategically to demonstrate best-practice as a member-led environmental organisation. We promote environmental activities and advocate for positive environmental outcomes. We connect volunteers, support organisational sustainability, provide educational opportunities and seek to increase the stream of funding to the sector. We support and enable our membership through meeting needs, holding space and creating opportunities for increased connections. We celebrate the diverse passions of our 65+ member groups, that include biodiversity regeneration, freshwater quality, food resilience, waste reduction, sustainable living, alternative energies, climate change and active transport. The network is organised into two collectives: Manawatū Food Action Network and Manawatū River Source to Sea

Ruahine Kiwi is a partnership between ENM's Manawatū River Source to Sea Collective and Te Kāuru Eastern Manawatū River Hapū Collective with the vision of returning North Island eastern brown kiwi to the southern Ruahine by 2026. We do this through intensive control of mustelids on a

landscape scale, with our trap network covering 23,000ha. We work in strong collaboration with tangata whenua, local farmers, and volunteers. We actively seek to educate and inform individuals and diverse groups of our work and how they can make a positive impact on our rohe.

Why do we exist?	Connecting and inspiring communities for environmental action
Our vision	All life is part of a thriving, self-sustaining ecosystem. Our vision is that the ecological and human communities in the Manawatū River catchment are living in harmony.
What motivates us?	Our responsibility to care for the earth and each other Becoming better Te Tiriti partners Collaboration and inclusivity A belief that small actions can have a big impact
Our roles	Sector leadership Strategic focus Member support and enablement Communication and promotion Advocacy/representation Demonstrating best-practice as a member-led environmental organisation Building capacity and capability Volunteer coordination Ensuring organisational sustainability Unlocking funding for the sector Education Creating community Creating connections Supporting Meeting needs/holding space

Submission:

Ruahine Kiwi supports the council’s proposal to de-sex cats in Palmerston North City Council area at four months of age.

- Prevention of unwanted kittens would help stop illegal dumping of unwanted cats in less populated parts of the district. Our project operates in areas where this is a clear issue, and since January 2021 has trapped 53 feral cats. We are not funded to do this work but have found it to be necessary as part of our trapping activities for the welfare of these animals and the native fauna that they impact. Farmers are very supportive of this work.
- Excess kittens and large urban cat populations cause issues in rural areas. Cats often have vast territories often in an excess of 30km in a week. Given that Palmerston North’s territorial authority is similar to that area, it is a certainty that urban cats will be problematic in rural areas.
- We acknowledge that domestic cats can be wonderful companion animals that give joy and companionship. However, when dumped and made feral, cats pose a significant threat to our native fauna. Cat owners need to be responsible and limit the number of cats they own. We support by-laws that limit cat numbers per household. Cat owners also need to have them microchipped so they can be identified as pets and not feral cats.

Submission ends

