

# Advocacy Policy

## Policy Status

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| Date Issued:<br><i>26 September 2023</i> | Next Review Date: August 2025                              |
| Date Last Revised: May 2019              | Approved by ENM Management<br>Committee on: 15 August 2023 |
|  | Signed by: <i>RBell</i><br>(Rebecca Bell, Co-Chairperson)  |

## Purpose

Environment Network Manawātū's (ENM's) constitutional purposes include the following:

- 2.2 Advocate for ecological sustainability and matters of agreed environmental significance.

This document sets out the policies and procedures that guide how ENM will meet its constitutional purpose to act as an advocate. It also indicates where ENM member groups have given ENM a mandate to represent them.

## Scope

The document includes policy:

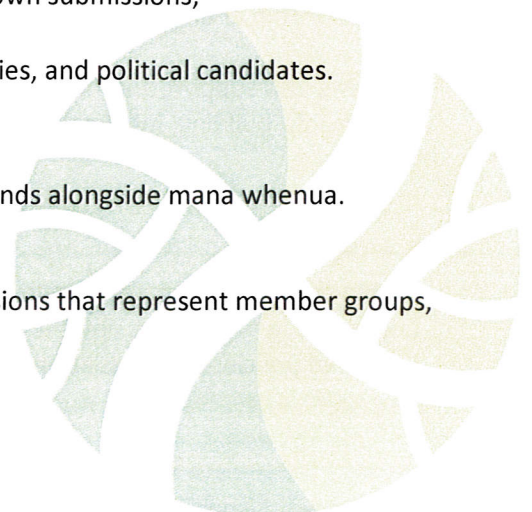
- on making representative submissions;
- for consulting members on representative submissions;
- for supporting member groups who wish to make their own submissions;
- on informal consultation with territorial authorities;
- on informal consultation with government, political parties, and political candidates.

## Our Policy and Procedures

ENM is committed to being a tangata Tiriti organisation, who stands alongside mana whenua.

### Policy on Making Representative Submissions

In keeping with its purpose to advocate, ENM will make submissions that represent member groups, as capacity permits, 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;
- 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).

### Policy for Consulting Members on Representative Submissions

ENM will endeavour to give member group representatives opportunity to provide input into submissions made on behalf of the network. Members feedback will be incorporated, where appropriate.

From time to time there are likely to be limits on the time available to prepare a submission, and/or on the capacity of paid and volunteer staff. When this is the case, ENM will ensure members are informed of any submissions made.

### Policy and Procedures for Supporting Member Groups Who Wish to Make their Own Submissions

ENM will additionally 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 will 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.

### Policy on 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.

It is our 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, and we will work gradually to build capacity in this area.

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

### Policy on 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.

### Policy on Giving Voice and Lending Support to Environmental Issues

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

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

### Roles and Responsibilities

The ENM Coordinator is responsible for managing this policy.

The ENM Management Committee has overall responsibility for ensuring that the ENM Coordinator is applying the policy.

### Related Environment Network Manawatū Policy Documents

- ENM Constitution
- Management Committee Meetings and Minute Taking Policy
- Participating in ENM's Management Committee Policy
- Financial Policy and Procedures
- Financial Delegations of Authority
- Membership Consultation Policy
- Confidential Information Policy
- Conflict of Interest Management Policy
- Privacy Policy and Procedures
- Media Policy



