



Submission to the Horizons Regional Council Annual Plan 2017-2018

Contact Details

Full Name: **Stewart Harrex**

Address for service: **C/- ENM, PO BOX 1271, Palmerston North**

Telephone: **06 3550577**

Mobile: **0274 542 836**

Email: **s.harrex@outlook.com**

Hearing of Submissions

I would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission.

Background

Environment Network Manawatu (ENM) is a charitable umbrella organisation dedicated to enhancing the environment within the Manawatu catchment. We receive funding from Palmerston North City Council, Lotteries, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Community Organisation Grants Scheme and project funding from additional organisations. We currently have 49 active member groups, all of which are in the Horizon's catchment.

This submission has been written in response to initial comments on the plan from our member groups and member groups have been given the opportunity to revise it before submitting.

Sustainable Land Use Initiatives - Page 27

It is disappointing to see the budget for Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUI) being reduced when land stability is one of the major contributors to our water quality issues in this region. We understand that the decrease comes from a decrease in capital expenditures while operating expenditure is actually being increased against the 3year plan. We would like to better understand what the longer term implications of the reduction in capital expenditure are. And we would welcome a re-allocation of the whole amount to stepping up SLUI activities.

In general, we question whether the target to reduce sediment by 30% by 2043 is sufficiently ambitious.

Water Quality and Quantity – Page 35

The target for stream fencing for the Manawatu River Accord has been lowered from 45km to 30km. If this is because of a lack of uptake, ENM would actively encourage Horizons Regional Council to offer up subsidies and schemes for other tools that can be used within catchments to enhance water quality, including constructed wetlands, detention dams/sediment traps and bank stability measures. ENM would expect that a similar or preferably greater allocation of funding would be going into this work programme given its regional importance.

Resource Consent and Pollution Management Activity – Page 39

We are surprised to see that despite consent administration and compliance being a core function of Council, inspecting rural compliance targets have been dropped from 90 to 85% and processing timeframes from 100% to 90%. While we realize there is high demand in this part of the business it must be understaffed for these targets not to be met. We note there is some increase in funding.

Pest Animal Management - Page 67

The consolidation and maintenance of existing possum populations is supported.

Pest Plant Management- Page 67

We are pleased to see that the Biosecurity position has been maintained and the budget increased as this work and these resources are essential to the fight to retain the few remnants of bush remaining in our region. We would be pleased to support Horizons public awareness strategy by including information about it in our monthly newsletter.

Living Heritage Activity – Page 72

Our member groups are pleased to see that Council's reporting committees are intending to include field based activities.

Community Relationships Activity – Page 81

We support your work with EnviroSchools as we know that through children and young people we can access adults to become more aware of environmental consequences of their actions.