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Dear Sir/ Madam

SUBMISSION TO 2017-18 ANNUAL PLAN

Thank you for your submission to Horizons Regional Council's 2017-18 Annual Plan.

This year we received 116 submissions, all of which were carefully considered by Council. It is always a challenge to balance the diverse concerns and interests in our Region, the submission process is an important one for Councillors to better understand the views of the people they represent.

Your submission to Council's 2017-18 Annual Plan related to:

Biosecurity and Biodiversity

Thank you for your submission supporting the increased investment in biosecurity and biodiversity management, including the retention of the biodiversity position. After considering the submissions, Council adopted the proposed increases for this activity, including the additional funding for the collaborative Te Apiti - Manawatu Gorge project. As a part of the deliberations Council also resolved that \$10,000 of the increased funding for biosecurity be set aside for the management of urban weeds. Thank you for your offer to support Horizons public awareness strategy by including information in your monthly newsletter, please contact the staff team to further advance this.

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Jon Roygard, Group Manager Natural Resources and Partnerships via email jon.roygard@horizons.govt.nz.

Sustainable Land Use Initiative

Thank you for your submission supporting the SLUI programme. Your submission identified your view that the land stability was one of the major contributors to the water quality issues of the Region. Your submission queried the 27% improvement in sediment loads that are predicted by Landcare Research to be achieved by the programme by 2043 could be increased. Your submission did not support the reduction in funding of SLUI and asked for more information around the implications of the reduced funding. After considering the submissions, Council has resolved to adopt the reduced budget for SLUI. It is noted that the targets for works to reduce erosion and targets for new whole farm plans have not been reduced. Overall the reduction in budgets reflects that SLUI programme is demand driven and that with the reduced budgets the targets are still able to be met or exceeded. The 27% improvement statistic predicted by Landcare Research modelling will continue to be remodeled over time to account

Kairanga

Marton

Palmerston North

Taihape

Taumarunui

Wanganui

Woodville

for the level of works and the potential impacts of climate change. There is ongoing work in the programme to refine the approach to SLUI and its delivery and to enhance the outcomes achieved.

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Jon Roygard, Group Manager Natural Resources and Partnerships via email jon.roygard@horizons.govt.nz.

Water Quality and Quantity

Your submission notes the reduction in the stream fencing target for the Manawatu River Leaders' Accord from 45km to 30km. This change reflects the demand driven nature of this non-regulatory programme and the recent observations around reduced requests for stream fencing assistance and increased demand for riparian planting. Horizons will continue to work to deliver greater than the 45km original target in each year, however has to rely on the demand from farmers to achieve this. Council adopted the revised target for stream fencing in the Manawatu Catchment, however maintained the same overall budget for the Manawatu River Leaders' Accord. Your comment regarding other types of works in the catchment to improve water quality was noted and these types of works are able to be funded via the overall water quality improvement programme where they form cost effective and appropriately targeted water quality interventions.

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Jon Roygard, Group Manager Natural Resources and Partnerships via email jon.roygard@horizons.govt.nz.

Community Relationships

It is great to hear that the community is supportive of Enviroschools, which for Horizons is a core part of our community engagement. Increasing the number of participating schools would require additional funding from the supporting city and district councils. Within the Horizons Region, six of the seven territorial authorities already provide funding support. As part of the Annual Plan process Horizons has made a submission to Horowhenua District Council to contribute to the programme in their district. We have asked for \$4,000 which would allow the four Friends of Enviroschools schools in the area to become full Enviroschools. Territorial authority funding provides an Enviroschool facilitator to the relevant district. This person works with the school to support their learning and activities. For the 2016-17 financial year, both Enviroschools and Waiora Studies targets have been met/exceeded. Increasing these numbers for 2017-18 would require additional staffing resource which currently does not exist.

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Chrissie Morrison, Media and Communications Manager via email chrissie.morrison@horizons.govt.nz.

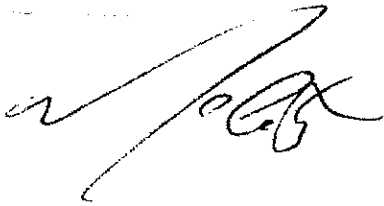
Resource Consent and Pollution

Council has provided additional resources to the regulatory activity as part of the Annual Plan. The targets have been altered to reflect the significantly increased workload in the rural sector. Work is prioritised to address higher risk sites and activities over those with a lower environmental risk.

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Nic Peet, Group Manager Strategy and Regulation via email nic.peet@horizons.govt.nz.

The 2017-18 Annual Plan is available via our website www.horizons.govt.nz/publications-feedback/publications/annual-plans. If you would like a hardcopy or disc version of the Plan, please contact our Customer Services Team on freephone 0508 800 800.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael McCartney', written in a cursive style.

Michael McCartney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE