



Aide memoire: Overview of Key Environmental Non-Government Organisations (ENGOS)

Date submitted: 2 February 2024

Tracking number: BRF-4162

Security level: Policy and Privacy

Actions sought from ministers	
<i>Name and position</i>	<i>Action sought</i>
To Hon Penny SIMMONDS Minister for the Environment	For noting only

Appendices and attachments
1. Overview of Key ENGO Stakeholders

Key contacts at Ministry for the Environment			
<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Cell phone</i>	<i>First contact</i>
Principal Author	Nicola McFaull		
Responsible Manager	Josh Wineera		
General Manager/s	Chloe Groser Hayden Johnston		✓

Overview of Key Environmental Non-Government Organisations

Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides information on the key ENGO stakeholder groups that engage regularly with the government on environmental issues. These ENGOs were included in BRF-4010 Briefing on Key Resource Management (RM) Reform stakeholders.

Background

2. There are many interest groups across Aotearoa New Zealand that have a focus on the environment. These include groups with a national presence, a large membership base across New Zealand and/or deep expertise and a structure to support to this; and those with a regional or local presence, focusing on specific issues relating to their area.
3. Groups with a national presence include the following:
 - i. Environmental Defence Society (EDS)
 - ii. Forest & Bird NZ
 - iii. Fish and Game NZ
 - iv. Greenpeace
 - v. WWF
4. Fish and Game NZ has a legislated mandate and specific statutory obligations.
5. The above groups meet regularly with the Ministry and are styled as the ENGO Leadership Group. They often work closely together, and with the Ministry, as part of our engagement programme on policy development and implementation issues. Previously, the group had six-monthly meetings with Ministers of the Crown.
6. The ENGO Leadership Group has been invited to a forum to discuss the Fast-Track Consenting Act and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) on 9 February 2024.
7. We have provided further information about these stakeholders in Appendix One.
8. Groups with a more regional or local focus include organisations such as Fiordland Marine Guardians, The Guardians of Lake Manapouri, Monowai and

Te Anau, Coromandel Watchdog, and Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO).

9. The Ministry keeps these groups informed of Government priorities through regular communication channels, encouraging them to participate in policy development and implementation through consultation and engagement processes.
10. Engagement and participation by external stakeholders helps inform and strengthen policy development and implementation ensuring it is robust and workable on the ground.

Funding of ENGOs

11. Most ENGOs rely on philanthropic and community or public donations to fund their work programmes. For instance, EDS receives funding from the Tindall Foundation, the Law Foundation and Foundation North.
12. The Ministry has provided funding to ENGO groups through the following programmes.
 - i. Environment Legal Assistance Fund (ELA)
 - ii. NGO Participation in Freshwater and other resource management plans.
13. When an organisation receives funding from government departments there are strict criteria to follow including reporting against set outcomes. Funding is usually provided through a deed of contribution.
14. In providing funds MfE has a commitment to prudent use of public monies, to ensure transparency, impartiality and effectiveness.
15. The ELA is administered by the Ministry. Its purpose is to help not-for-profit groups advocating for matters of environmental public interest pay for legal and/or expert advice to support court cases on issues of environmental significance. This includes first instance hearings where there are no substantive appeal rights. Funding enables applicants to participate more effectively and efficiently in matters or issues affecting, or processes regulating, the environment. The fund has a total annual budget of \$600,000 with a maximum of \$50,000 per group for any one case with funding decided by an independent panel.
16. A list of all groups who have been funded is available on the Ministry for the Environment website. Groups that have been approved for funding over the last year have included Valley Residents Against Gravel Extraction; EDS; Kiwis Against Seabed Mining and Te Runanga o Ngati Whatua.
17. Funding has been made available by the Ministry in a pilot programme to support ENGO participation in plan-making to develop high-quality and more balanced resource management plans.

18. The pilot initiative was to provide \$2.4 million over three years to participating NGOS starting with Freshwater plans under the RMA. It was to move eventually to the now repealed Regional Spatial Strategies (under the proposed Spatial Planning Act—SPA) and Natural and Built Environment plans (under the proposed Natural and Built Environment Act—NBA).
19. The purpose of the funding was to enable ENGOS to engage when the plans were in their early stage, so any concerns could be resolved. The aim was for this to help avoid more costly processes at a later stage.
20. EDS and Forest & Bird each received \$200,000 in the 23/24 year (up to a total of \$600,000 for each recipient over the three years of the Deeds). Each organisation also co-funded their work with EDS committing \$240,000 and Forest & Bird \$900,000 over three years.
21. Funding for the 24/25 year is now under review given the new direction by Government on the resource management reforms.
22. EDS has also been contracted to assist in reviewing New Zealand's ocean management system. It will prepare working papers on the key system issues of marine spatial planning and marine protection, delivering a pathway to positive change in oceans management. This independent research will help address the Government's manifesto commitments on integrated marine management and marine protection and will inform potential future oceans management reform.
23. Funding for this project is for \$155,000 over three years with payment tied to phased deliverables.
24. Information is being sent to your office separately to provide an overview of nine ENGO groups funded by the Ministry over the last four years. This includes the above ENGO groups.

Next steps

25. This Aide Memoire gives you an overview of the key ENGO national groups that the Ministry regularly engages with as part of policy development and implementation.
26. The Minister for Climate Change is meeting with EDS on 8 February.
27. The Minister Responsible for RMA Reform is meeting with EDS on 27 March and with Fish & Game on 28 March 2024.
28. We recommend you also meet with the ENGOS either as a group or individually in the coming months. The information in Appendix One will be useful for those meetings. We can also provide a more in-depth meeting note for each meeting.

Signatures



Chloe Groser
General Manager – Communications and
Engagement
02/02/2024



Hayden Johnston
General Manager – Natural Environment
Policy
02/02/2024

Hon Penny SIMMONDS
Minister for the Environment
Date