



Ā Tātou Kai me Tō Tātou Taiao Our Food and Our Environment

An Environment Network Manawatu Vision Statement

Our vision

- ★ *As people of the Manawatū River catchment, we will receive our food in ways that enhance ecosystem functioning and the environment while also supporting human health and well-being.*

What has inspired our vision?

Our vision statement arises out of the collective aspirations and actions of Environment Network Manawatu (ENM) member groups¹. We are also inspired by the strong connections between people and place that are part of traditional food cultures, especially those of the iwi and hapū of the Manawatū River from source to sea².

What actions are required to realise our vision?

Our vision for our food and our environment requires producing and distributing food in ways that care for our region's soil, groundwater, surface water, air, indigenous biodiversity, general biodiversity, and—regardless of their income—people.

What is the scope and function of ENM's vision?

ENM's vision statement is a metaphorical whareniui. That is, the statement serves as a place to come together as a collective, in dialogue, and also as a place of strength and identity for welcoming new participants³. By gathering together within this vision, ENM members support one another in the shared mahi (work) of increasing the well-being of humans and the broader ecological community.

Defining and upholding our actions are the corner and side posts that support the whareniui. These are the six pou (pillars) presented in Table 1.

¹ Environment Network Manawatu (ENM) is a charitable umbrella organisation serving member groups with a shared commitment to collective community action to realise a vision of an enhanced Manawatū environment. Through direct action, advocacy, education, and fundraising or other support, our member groups work to enhance water quality, biodiversity conservation, sustainable urban and rural environments, and more. Many of our member groups are involved in initiatives related to growing, using, and/or distributing food. Representatives of these member groups were interviewed at length to develop the first draft of this statement. All member groups were consulted at additional stages in the statement's development. For more about our member group initiatives and the actions our groups support, see our discussion of this vision statement in the document "Te mahi o te kai me te taiao: Key actions for enhancing our regional food ecology".

² ENM acknowledges that there are several iwi and hapū who hold mana whenua over parts of the Manawatū River catchment. This statement was developed in consultation with Te Ao Turoa Environmental Centre (Rangitaane o Manawatu) and Te Kāuru Eastern Manawatū River Hapū Collective, who are among the organisations who constitute ENM.

³ In adopting this metaphor, ENM acknowledges the te whare tapa whā approach to well-being developed by Mason Durie. We also acknowledge Rangitaane o Manawatu, whose environmental officer Paul Horton and cultural advisor Terry Hapi gave us the idea and the guidance to adapt the whareniui metaphor to this context. We are grateful for additional generous and constructive feedback from Hone Morris of Te Kāuru Eastern Manawatū River Hapū Collective.

1. Pou tikanga (mahinga kai, pātaka kai) / Traditional food cultures	ENM supports diverse food cultures that provide strong and sacred connections between people and place. We acknowledge both the inspiration and the inherent value of tikanga, including tikanga associated with mahinga kai and pātaka kai. Further, as a network-supporting Management Committee, ENM commits to respecting the tino rangatiratanga (self-determination) of tangata whenua. Within our capacity and in accordance with our constitutional purposes, we seek to respond to the leadership, guidance, and aspirations of tangata whenua and their recognised representatives.
2. Pou taiao / Regional ecology	ENM's vision for food provision is integrated with our conservation values and our advocacy and action to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. ENM acknowledges that biodiversity and intact ecosystems have intrinsic value as well as key roles in supporting agriculture.
3. Pou atua / Approaches to growing and harvesting food that honour soil, water, air, and biodiversity	To be ecologically sound, sustainable, and resilient, food needs to be grown and harvested in ways that care for soil, water, air and climate, and biodiversity. ENM promotes practices that enhance these resources and avoid ecological harm.
4. Pou mauri / Appropriate energy and resource use to respect the spirit and integrity of life	ENM's vision requires honouring the spirit and integrity of life in all its manifestations. One way we respect life is by appropriate use of energy and material resources. This means applying the value hierarchy of refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle. We seek to minimise food waste, other forms of material waste, and emissions associated with processing, packaging, and transporting food. We also seek to minimise the use of non-renewable energy and resources when growing and distributing food.
5. Pou ohaoha / Economy	ENM supports the development and regionalisation of the formal and informal economy in ways that connect regional growers and eaters. We support initiatives that enhance the capacity and markets of growers who have adopted, or who are seeking to adopt, growing practices that contribute to human and ecological well-being as set out in the rest of this statement.
6. Pou tangata tiaki (kaitiakitanga) / Education and culture change as care for the future	ENM's aspirations require nurturing and developing a culture in which everyone participates in environmental guardianship for future generations. This requires a combination of culture conservation and culture change, including mātauranga, or education to share wisdom and knowledge. We support (1) all-ages learning and skills development to enhance eco-food outcomes through direct education, (2) the use of public and community spaces to help establish and share eco-food cultures, and (3) additional forms of public awareness-raising.

Adoption of this statement

Following consultation with member group representatives, the Management Committee of Environment Network Manawatu adopt this statement to represent the network's views.

Please note: This statement was signed by Heike Schiele, ENM Co-Chairperson, on 16 March 2017. The scanned document is available on request as a >13 MB .pdf file. This alternative file is used here to reduce download time.