

AGENDA FOR ECO 2017 AGM

Agenda for ECO AGM 2017 – Version 5 8.30am, Sunday 27th August , Memorial Hall - 548 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson

Member organisation delegate registration, proxies and checking of documents.

1. Introduction, Welcome and Apologies.
2. Explanation and confirmation of representation and member group voting rights and documentation.
3. Review and confirmation of the Agenda.
4. Review and adoption of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting.
5. Matters Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.
6. Presentation and adoption of the Annual Report for 2016.
7. Treasurer's report and presentation of the accounts for 1 January to 31 December 2016. Presentation of the draft ECO budget for 2017.
8. Presentation of the Auditor's report for 2016.
9. Appointment of the Honorary Solicitor and of the Auditor
10. Policy and/or motions for discussion and approval:
 - a) If New Zealand were to develop a constitution, what provisions in relation to the environment would ECO favour?
For discussion: Do ECO member bodies support New Zealand adopting a national constitution? What are the arguments for and against?
 - b) That ECO welcomes and endorses approaches to the environment that recognise "personhood" and the principle of Public Trusteeship for the future, within the context of the Treaty of Waitangi.
 - c) **Regional ECO Networks:** Moved Canterbury Forest and Bird
Motion: That a working group be established by the Executive to work out the ways that ECO can support such regional networks and that this include policy on the use of the logo.

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- d) **Climate change action:** Motion: That ECO endorse the following Climate-related statements and declarations:
- Zero Carbon Act <http://www.zerocarbonact.nz/>
 - Our Climate declaration
http://www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/the_declaration
 - Climate Consensus Aotearoa (Wise Response):
<http://climateconsensus.nz/>
- e) Motion: That ECO apply to the United Nations for accreditation to the UN as a Civil Society Organisation.
(Note: ECO had a request to be accredited to one UN Convention and agreed to look at wider accreditation.)
- f) Motion: That ECO urges a reversal of the progressive limitations on: public notification and participation, due process, democratic engagement and open government in environmental management and law particularly but not only those introduced by the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017.
- g) **Special Economic Zones:**
That ECO opposes the creation of Special Economic Zones and the attendant loss of the coherence of environmental law and other relevant laws such as labour protection.
- h) **Marine and fisheries policy, management and reporting**
- (i) Motion: That New Zealand fisheries law be amended to include and give effect to the precautionary principle and approach in favour of the environment, and the ecosystem based management approach.
 - (ii) Motion: That fisheries law and management in New Zealand be amended to implement better protection of the environment, including threatened species and benthic protection, and to include spatial management.
- i) **Protection of Biodiversity on the high seas:**
Motion: That ECO welcomes the development of United Nations negotiations of an agreement to protect biodiversity and establish protected areas on the high seas in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- j) **Marine protection in the New Zealand marine area including EEZ**
- (i) Motion: That ECO is disappointed at the lack of progress on marine reserves and other marine protected areas around New Zealand, and:

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- (ii) Motion: That ECO calls on the next government to include the EEZ and continental shelf in any new legislation to establish marine reserves and wildlife based area protection; and
- (iii) Motion: that urgent steps are taken to swiftly establish the Kermadecs/[Rangitāhua Ocean Sanctuary](#)

k) Hearings procedure:

ECO notes the following concerns raised about the recent Seabed Mining EEZ hearings including:

- i. Submissions were not heard in any of the towns near the proposed site.
 - ii. Submissions seemed to be lost.
 - iii. There was pressure of time put on these oral hearing and a time limit on each submission but the intended mining company got repeated request for more information over periods of months.
 - iv. The Chair took a different approach to ordinary submitters than to professionals.
 - v. Some people had problems getting information through their emails and solutions to this seemed to be a long time in coming.
 - vi. Most taking part in this process in good faith do not now feel it was a democratic one.
- (see note below from Sustainable Whanganui).

l) Water policy and land use

- i. Motion: That ECO formally endorses and supports the Freshwater Rescue Plan (www.freshwaterrescueplan.org)

Mining

- ii. That ECO endorses proposals that the exclusion of minerals activity and mining in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act be extended to include World Heritage Areas, ecological areas, and the area in southern Coromandel to and including Te Aroha mountain.
- iii. **Mining promotion removal**
That ECO urges the removal the provisions for the promotion of mining from the Crown Minerals Act and the Minerals Programme?

m) Conservation, Biosecurity and Biodiversity protection

- i. That the incoming government double the funding for DoC; provide at least an extra \$30mil/pa to expand and extend biosecurity efforts for conservation purposes.

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Community based conservation

- ii. That the incoming government increase funding and other support by at least \$30 million per annum for land owner and community based conservation efforts in relation to conservation-related biodiversity protection including biosecurity, weed control, and predator control.
- iii. That ECO welcomes the decision of the Supreme Court re the Ruataniwha case to declare unlawful the swap of specially protected conservation land and its exchange for other land.
- iv. That ECO opposes any changes to conservation legislation that would permit the downgrading or revocation of the status of specially protected land.
ECO calls on the government to follow the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's call for a systematic reclassification of stewardship land to reflect its conservation values and to assign those areas that are of conservation significance protection designations commensurate with those values.

11. **Election of the ECO Executive Committee**

Nominations

12. ECO's priorities for 2017/18

Discussion with suggestions from the outgoing Executive Committee and from the floor.

Internal Priorities

2016-17 priorities:

- (i) to further develop and implement plans to increase ECO's funding base*
- (ii) to strengthen internal communications including engaging members in policy development*
- (iii) strengthening the network functions of the umbrella*
- (iv) engaging with Maori: work to develop this*

- External Priorities

2016-17 priorities:

- (a) Antarctic and Southern Ocean*
- (b) Working on climate change action and reporting including reductions in GHG and especially in coal, oil, mining and gas.*
- (c) Marine and fisheries management*
- (d) open society, participation and due process*
- (e) promoting the ECO vision, including ECO's constitutional changes, election issues, environmental education, submissions and advocacy*
- (f) environmental management and law including resource legislation, mining*
- (g) exotic forestry*
- (h) protection of biodiversity, conservation, biosecurity*

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13. Next ECO AGM and annual conference or other meetings in 2018
(Suggestions for format, venue and theme).

14. General Business

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Appendix 1 – Process for the Election of members of the Executive Committee.

The process for the election of the Executive Committee to be followed is this:

Procedure at AGM elections:

1. The Chair reads out this procedure or it is listed on the white board.
2. The Chair determines the number of valid voting members and proxies, and if the meeting has a quorum.
3. (If required) The chair is handed to someone not standing for election.
4. The Chair asks the EO for all nominations and seconds received.
5. The Chairs asks for any nominations and seconds from the floor and notes that all nominees must agree to the ECO Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct as adopted by the 2013 AGM.
6. The nominees are listed with the nominators and seconds.
7. The voting Members are given voting papers with nominations listed. The voting papers are distributed according the number of votes held by each member.
8. Those who are nominated are asked to speak briefly to their nominations and to answer questions.
9. A returning officer is appointed.
10. The votes are cast (by secret ballot if requested as per the constitution).
11. The returning officer reports the number of valid votes cast for each candidate and reports which are the successful candidates.

Background:

A: Freshwater Rescue Plan

Seven steps of the Freshwater Rescue Plan:

1. Prioritise the health of people and their waterways by setting strict and enforceable water quality standards, based on human and ecosystem health limits.
2. Withdraw all public subsidies of irrigation schemes, as they increase pressure on waterways.
3. Invest in an Agricultural Transition Fund, to support the country's shift away from environmentally-damaging farming methods by redirecting \$480 million of public money earmarked for irrigation.
4. Implement strategies to decrease cow numbers immediately.
5. Reduce freshwater contamination by instigating polluter pays systems nationally.
6. Address the performance of regional council's on improving water quality through quarterly reports from the Ministry for the Environment on enforcement, breaches and monitoring.
7. Adopt OECD recommendation to establish a whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder process to develop a long-term vision for the transition of New Zealand to a low-carbon, greener economy.

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For more information www.freshwaterrescueplan.org

B. ECO Regional Networks – Canterbury Forest and Bird

Canterbury members of ECO and aligned groups have been discussing the development of a regional hub in Canterbury. The discussion has also involved the possible re-establishment of an environment centre in Christchurch. This motion has been put forward so that ECO members can discuss this development.

C. Issues raised on EPA Decision-making processes: Sustainable Whanganui

1. The submission were not heard in any of the towns near the proposed site. Which was in the area that most of the concerned people lived.
2. Submissions seemed to be lost – how or where has not been explained or explored. Although the people who really complained about this were still allowed to speak.
3. There was pressure of time put on these oral hearing & a time limit on each submission but the intended mining company got repeated request for more information over periods of months.
4. The Chair took a different approach to ordinary submitters than to professionals.
5. Some people had problems getting information through their emails & solutions to this seemed to be a long time in coming.
6. It seems inappropriate to still be waiting for a decision.
7. most of us taking part in this process in good faith do not now feel it was a democratic one.