



**Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ
Inc.**

Annual Report August 2015- August 2016

PO Box 11-057, Wellington

Email: eco@eco.org.nz

Website: www.eco.org.nz

Phone/Fax 64-4-385-7545

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ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND INC

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

1.0 Introduction: Our Reporting style and Period

The Annual Report for August 2015-August 2016 is presented to you by the Executive Committee of ECO, and the ECO Executive Officer, Michael Pringle.

This year's annual report is formatted to report against our Goals and Objects to engage with the requirements for Performance reports set by the Charities Commission and changes in requirements for incorporated societies. Since our financial reporting year is a calendar year, we are providing annual accounts for the calendar year and an August- August report on our activities since that is of greatest interest to our members. We report in more detail on our activities than is required by the Charities Commission, again because our Members and Friends probably want more detail.

In 2015-16 we had discussions at our 2015 AGM and by electronic means since then of changes to our Goals and Objectives. Since these constitutional changes have not yet been fully ratified, we report against the constitution in the absence of the circulated proposed changes.

In the text below, the version of the constitution used is thus the version that was in force at the beginning of the AGM 2015.

The Purpose of the Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa/N.Z Inc., ECO, is *"the national alliance of organisations concerned with conservation, natural resources and environment whose function is to promote the protection and enhancement of all elements of the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations"* as defined by our then constitution.

ECO's Goals (s2) include the:

- (i) Protection and restoration of the environment including its physical systems and cultural heritage.*
- (ii) Minimisation of the environmental impacts of human activity and the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.*
- (iii) Safeguarding the interests of future generations.*

Our Objects (s3) include:

- (i) To provide a forum for debate, policy formation, organising coordinated action on issues, and promoting co-operation and collaboration to achieve its goals for the environment.*
- (ii) To promote agreed policies to government, statutory and other official bodies and state departments through advocacy and submissions.*
- (iii) To provide information and support to its members, through regular newsletters and other publications.*
- (iv) To initiate and encourage research and the publication of the results of such research.*
- (v) To take all possible steps to inform and encourage the public on ways to achieve goals for the environment.*
- (vi) To establish and maintain (working) co-operative relationships with official and non-governmental bodies with similar interest at international, regional and national level.*
- (vii) To create a sense of community for those organisations and individuals with a shared concern for the environment, conservation and ECO's other goals and objects.*

Priorities

The 2015 ECO AGM gave the Executive Committee these priorities for the past year:

A External Priorities

To collaborate, co-ordinate and catalyze policies and actions in relation to:

- 1 Antarctica and Southern Ocean;
- 2 Reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and especially reductions in coal, oil and gas mining;
- 3 Marine and fisheries management;
- 4 Open society, participation, due process and Aarhus Convention;
- 5 Strengthen policy engagement with all political parties;
- 6 Exotic forestry;
- 7 Environmental management including RMA, EEZ legislation and mining;
- 8 Protection of biodiversity, conservation and biosecurity.

B Internal Priorities:

- 1 To further develop and implement our plans over the next year to increase ECO's funding base;

- 2 To further strengthen use of internal communications including means of engaging members in policy development;
- 3 Strengthen the network functions of the umbrella;
- 4 Engaging with Maori - work on develop a processes for this;
- 5 Capacity building.

2 ECO's Committees and Working Groups.

2.1 ECO Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee during 2015/16 included:

Barry Weeber, ECO Co-chair. (Wellington and Tairua, Environmental Futures)
Betsan Martin, ECO Co-chair/Vice Chair (RESPONSE, Wellington)
Cath Wallace, ECO Vice-chair (Whenuakite and Wellington) Environmental Futures)
Diana Shand, ECO Vice-chair/Co-chair (Christchurch and Wellington)
Tony Dean, ECO Secretary, (ATLA, Wellington)
Jim Kebbell, Treasurer (Wellington)
Geoff Keey, , (Arthur's Pass and Wellington)

The ECO Executive Committee has sub-committees for Administration and Finance, conference and occasional ad hoc subcommittees.

The 2015-16 year was unusually difficult for ECO due to trying family and personal circumstances of five of our Executive members. Earthquake and house fire reconstruction, elderly and dying relatives, and other family circumstances combined to limit our capacity this last year – but despite this we have done a great deal. Several of these problems are now behind us. The support of our volunteers was crucial to us, and the support of Michael Pringle, Executive Officer, was, and is, invaluable.

We expect to go into the 2016-17 year with greater strength in the Executive.

ECO Working Groups

We list here the groups and sub-groups we use to do much of our work. We have not tried to report against each group, since the main focus of our reporting now is against our objectives.

Working groups on external matters:

2.2.1 Improved environmental management and law.

This group also contains sub groups on exotic forestry, water, mining, legislation & policy.

2.2.2 Conservation, Biosecurity and Biodiversity

2.2.3 Marine and Fisheries

This has domestic and international dimensions.

2.2.4 International, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

Various matters are included in this including UN and other sustainability threads, international agreements, Trade and economic agreements, IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Antarctic Treaty System matters. This group intersects with other working groups such as Marine and Fisheries.

2.2.5 Climate Working Group

2.2.6 Open Government, Free and Participative Society and Democracy.

2.2.7 Policy and Promotion of our vision for NZ and the wider environment.

Internal Working Groups

2.2.8 Engagement with Maori & Treaty of Waitangi.

2.2.9 Fundraising Working Group

2.2.10 Admin Committee - this has picked up internal organization building functions.

3 Reports against our objects:

We report here against our objects, followed by reports relating to our internal work.

3.(i) To provide a forum for debate, policy formation, organising coordinated action on issues, and promoting co-operation and collaboration to achieve its goals for the environment.

During the year, ECO worked with other groups and individuals on many issues, in relation to policy and practice, collaboration and as a forum for debate.

We collaborated with and /or hosted discussions about:

- -water policies and allocations and supported the Choose Clean Water Tour
- collaborative processes and their strengths and weaknesses;
- we convened a joint NGO discussion of an analyses of the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill and its implications and also corresponded with ECO members and others of like mind to analyse and make submissions on that Bill.
- Open government and the Open Government Action Plan

We have kept members and contacts in the wider community abreast of lectures, seminars, conferences, submissions due, policy developments and opportunities for input on legislation, grants and other opportunities available via email

notifications, our weekly newsletter, Tieke, ECOLink, and discussions in meetings.

For the New Zealand IUCN National Committee, ECO with the driving efforts of Catherine Iorns-Magallenes, organised a Wellington Biodiversity Offsets Symposium – (11 September 2015)

At our 2015 Conference, we provided a conference about water policy, quality and allocation with various workshops on these and other matters, and discussions on how to tackle these matters.

These discussions have continued in various modes, including further discussions face-to-face and by electronic methods, Our 2016 Conference takes this further, as well as having a major focus on achieving action on climate change.

We have discussed with New Zealand and international colleagues matters to do with conservation E.G. with fellow members of the New Zealand IUCN Committee, and with colleagues in the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), climate change and marine matters. ECO has actively participated in several aspects of the governance and the policies of IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation and Natural Resources, IUCN, in preparation for the September 2016 World Conservation Congress. We have defended the rights of members of IUCN and have succeeded in achieving significant amendments to IUCN Council proposals for changes.

We actively participate in international conservation and environmental discussions and fora on ideas, policy and practice, sometimes in person, more often electronically.

Examples include:

- extensive participation in IUCN policy and governance motion discussions (we made input into over 50 of these) leading up to the World Conservation Congress in September 2016;
- input into the discussions of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and the High Seas Alliance regarding a range of matters including the hugely important , discussion of the protection of marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ);
- climate policies and performance in the context of both the broader international agreements and New Zealand's compliance with its obligations;
- input to discussions within civil society and sometimes with government, on trade and economic integration negotiations processes.

In addition, we invited members and like-minded organisations to provide comment on policy proposals and draft law, and we invited and/or exchanged analyses, comments and text on impending submissions on a variety of topics.

ECO representatives have attended a wide variety of events, workshops, conferences, seminars and lectures, ranging from workshops on pest control to

the Victoria University of Wellington's Eye of the Storm conference on Climate change and the Pacific in February 2016., the Marine Sciences Society Conference and workshop on Ocean Acidification.

We continue to engage with signatories to the NZ Forest Accord and the Forest Stewardship Council, both to mark successes and to promote improved forestry environmental standards and practices. This is done by email, by discussion at meetings, and with dialogue directly with other ENGOs, both members and non-members, with industry representatives and others. Notably, August 14 2016 is the 25th Anniversary of the NZ Forests Accord with other ENGOs, foresters and other industry representatives. As well as marking the 25th anniversary of this important accord that brought about a substantial reduction in logging of native forests, we are also continuing to pursue opportunities for reductions in the impacts of plantation forestry, the control of weeds and pathogens, and upholding standards and compliance with both regulatory and other standards of forestry practices.

ECO has this year given particular attention to promotion and defence of democratic values, due process, public participation and the right to speak out. We have given publicity to cases where due process has been denied, where law changes have been proposed or made that disadvantage public participation and the rights to information and to participation of civil society. We have circulated appeals for funding help by the Friends of Waitara River who have been pursued for costs by the Taranaki Regional Council for asking for independent Commissioners for a Resource Management Hearing.

ECO, with the help of the "Working Together More Fund" has collaborated with the Freshwater Foundation Charitable Trust, Forest and Bird and others on water management issues, water quality and has undertaken and/or supported and promoted several national and regional water processes.

ECO participates member conferences and events, and discussions of policies and practice, including the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust conference in Dunedin on Conservation Inc 2 Conference. ECO Exec members have variously attended meetings by member groups or helped them with policy (and they help us too).

Exec members attended meetings of Christchurch Member groups such as Sustainable Otutahi Christchurch (SOC), Nth Canterbury Forest & Bird, Environmental Futures, Coromandel Watchdog, and various others.

3(ii) To promote agreed policies to government, statutory and other official bodies and state departments through advocacy and submissions.

ECO's policy is derived from our AGMs and SGMs. Where elaboration is needed or ideas need development, within that broad policy, we develop our thinking by inter-sessional discussions with interested NGOs and our members, as well as listening to research and other informed sources.

Much of our work is done by and within the ECO Executive Committee and our working groups. Our work is frequently further informed by the understanding and information gained from research presentations and discussions in policy fora, scholarly and policy literature, practitioner workshops and discussions with officials.

ECO has an on-going engagement with a number of government agencies, with research organisations, and formal stakeholder processes, as well as making submissions to official and Parliamentary processes and consultations.

ECO is non-partisan but part of our mandate is to press for better specific policies and also to improve – and blunt attacks on – the rights and opportunities for environmental groups and others in civil society to give voice and have rights of input via participatory democratic processes and open government.

Submissions Made in the period August 2015- August 2016

ECO made the following written submissions and in some cases made oral submissions and or supplementary submissions:

Waikato Regional Council

Mokau South Resources [coal] mining Consent Application (2 February 2016)

Ministry for the Environment:

Next Steps for Freshwater Consultation Document – ECO Submission, (February 2016).

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Trading Scheme Review 2015/16:

“Priority issues” as defined by MfE (19 Feb 2016)

“Other issues” as defined by MfE (30 April 2016)

A New Marine Protected Areas Act Consultation Document – Submissions (11 March 2016)

Streamlining the Regulatory Regime for Pest Control (26 May 2016)

Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity:
Submissions by ECO NZ (18 July 2016)

Department of Conservation

Objection Re application for access arrangement for [coal] Mining Permit 41289, Mt Te Kuha, Rangitira Developments Ltd. (c9 March 2016, Oral submission, April 2016)

State Services Commission

Submission on the Open Government Action Plan Self Assessment Report (16 October 2015)

Local Government and Environment Select Committee

Submission on Environmental Protection Authority (Protection of Environment) Amendment Bill (10 September 2015)

Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill (24 April 2016)

Resource Legislation Amendment Bill – ECO Submissions (14 March 2016)

Wildlife (Powers) Amendment Bill (14 May 2016)

Independent Review Committee of Intelligence and Security Legislative Framework

Independent Review of Intelligence and Security Legislative Framework (14 August 2015)

Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee

The International Treaty Examination of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (c17 March 2016)

Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI)

Proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry (11 August 2015)

The Permanent Forest Sink Initiative Proposals for Improvement: Submission by ECO (12 August 2015)

Fisheries Management System Review (8 Dec 2015)

IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature

CONSULTATION on IUCN’s draft policy on biodiversity offsets (15 September 2015)

Various governance matters and motions

Motions for the IUCN Members’ Business Assembly – Inputs on numerous proposed motions (>40) , co-sponsorship of several such motions.

Diana Shand worked through IUCN organisations to submit on Biodiversity Offsetting policy and on the Sustainable Development Goals. Within the IUCN CEESP (Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy) Diana Shand chairs the Theme on Social and Environmental Policy of the Private Sector

MSC - MRAG America

Orange Roughy Assessment - Marine Stewardship Council process -(North-West Chatham Rise, East and South Chatham Rise and Challenger fisheries) (29 February 2016)

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ten yearly Environmental Performance Country Review of New Zealand

OECD Environmental Performance Review – Oral Submission 11 May 2016, followed up with the provision of various documents such as copies of submissions.

ECO attended meetings convened by:

Department of Conservation (DoC)

Conservation Services Policy (re marine and fisheries) including the Sea lion Threat Management Plan.

The Ministry for the Environment about:

Proposed policy and law on Marine Protected Areas

The Emissions Trading System Review (Priority issues and other issues) (Feb 2016);

The Christchurch meeting of MfE consultation on Next Steps for Freshwater

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** regarding:

- Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in relation to marine protection and CCAMLR,
- The Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting;
- Antarctic Tourism policy workshop;
- The UN negotiations on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ);

The Ministry of Primary Industries relating to:

- **The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)** meetings and science agendas
- The Aquatic Environment Working Group
- Deepwater fish stocks Working Group
- The Deepwater Environmental Liaison Group
- Antarctic Working Group

- South Pacific RFMO NZ Working Group
- National Plan of Action on Sharks
- National Plan of Action on Seabirds

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's Office
Re Framework for Environmental Reporting.

Land and Water Forum plenary meetings.

Various members of the Executive (and some member bodies) and of the ECO Environmental Law and Management Working Group attended these meetings and commented on papers and collaborated with other NGOs.

Wellington City Council Climate Change Reference Group

IUCN

We attended New Zealand IUCN National Committee meetings and Forums.

Antarctic Treaty System Meetings

Barry Weeber attended the Scientific Committee of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

Barry Weeber attended the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Santiago in May –June 2016 as an NGO member of the New Zealand delegation.

3 (iii) To provide information and support to its members, through regular newsletters and other publications.

ECOLink, our quarterly newsletter provides reports on events, conferences, government policy and proposed legislation and activities of member bodies. Four issues were done in the year.

Tieke: weekly email newsletter sent to ca. 820 subscribers containing news and events on matters related to ECO's work.

Our Facebook site has grown in the attention it gains with 1600 "likes"

Twitter account: >1700 followers and numerous re-tweets of our posts.

Emails: We also use our database for irregular emails to the whole membership and to Friends of ECO.

Our website, www.eco.org.nz is an on-going source of information to members but also to many others.

3(iv) To initiate and encourage research and the publication of the results of such research.

Research

ECO via its Open Government, Free and Participative Society and Democracy working group, led by Jan Rivers, is undertaking a survey of mainly civil society organisations and individuals as to their understanding of and suggestions for open government and for specifics for inclusion of the government's Open Government Partnership Action Plans. This work is substantial and has been done entirely by volunteers, with the exception of the support of the ECO Executive Officer who is paid. The outcome of this work will be written up and early results will also be provided to Hui E! and other civil society members and to the State Services Commission which has an obligation to report to Cabinet in September 2016 on matters for inclusion in the 2016-18 Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.

Barry Weeber and Cath Wallace are members of scientific review groups for a broad range of marine protection, fisheries, Antarctic and other subjects.

ECO has encouraged research on ecosystem-based management in the marine environment, has participated in research planning processes on both marine and climate matters, and has helped various academic research projects with survey responses, interviews and methodological suggestions.

In the 2015-16 year, ECO has continued to encourage and host research interns from universities: Valentine Noreve from the National Agronomic Engineering Post Graduate School in Toulouse, France, working on a survey of the extent, location, type and value of environmental restoration and conservation work being undertaken in New Zealand; and Emily Donaldson from the HECUA programme in the US, who continued the work commenced by Valentine, researching and writing "good news stories" from the survey analysis that had been completed by Valentine.

ECO frequently notifies the wider community of academic and other research seminars and other reporting. This is done via our weekly Tieke, by email notifications, notifications via our Website, and in other ways.

ECO member groups and Executive Committee members frequently attend research reporting events, seminars, conferences and we give publicity to the publication of relevant reports.

We have also provided feedback to various relevant organisations as to what we see as high priority research.

Within the IUCN CEESP (Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy) ECO co-chair Diana Shand, chairs the Theme on Social and Environmental Policy of the Private Sector. She is leading the TSEAPRISE editorial team to publish

research on the impacts of Certification (Voluntary Certification Standards) on biodiversity and dependent human livelihoods).

3 (v) To take all possible steps to inform and encourage the public on ways to achieve goals for the environment.

ECO has maintained a presence in public meetings and some less public ones to continue to air our vision for more environmentally sound futures. To stress human responsibility and the need for kaitiaki to be heard, and to foster the interests of the future. We have contributed to the intellectual discussion as well as the immediate policy, practice and law. Our view of the world as a bio-geophysical system with human systems embedded in it but subject to its limitations continues to be expressed in many fora.

We continue to deal not only with the substantive matters of conservation and the environment but also to maintain vigilance regarding the “meta” issues of rights of free speech, of civil society to organize, the need to be future regarding, and to live within a free and open society with open, honest and accountable government.

Our commentary on these matters have been expressed in many meetings and at times we have spoken plainly to Parliamentarians and to officials about the need to respect, inform and engage the public, and to maintain due process, citizen rights to be heard, and to have open government maintained.

We speak on traditional news media and social media, we have helped filmmakers and others who need information and access to people and organisations who can help them. ECO has also helped scholars directly with their research or with other productions and events, and we do what we can within our resources to help others and our members to organize and contact people for various conferences and workshops.

3(vi) To establish and maintain (working) co-operative relationships with official and non-governmental bodies with similar interest at international¹, regional and national level.

Participation in external Working Groups

ECO was a member of:

- The plenary group of the Land and Water Forum
- Various Ministry of Primary Industry Fisheries Working Groups and plenaries
- Sub-Antarctic Marine Protected Areas Working Group.
- National Plan of Action on Seabirds Implementation Group
- National Plan of Action on Sharks Working Group

¹ None of the international work has been at ECO’s cost, being either paid for by the individuals doing the work, or by the international organisations to which ECO belongs.

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- Union and civil society - Environment liaison meetings
- The Hauraki Gulf Forum

Non-governmental and international organisations

ECO is a member of the following:

International

- The Antarctic and Southern Oceans Coalition (ASOC)
- The Antarctic Oceans Alliance
- The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC)
- High Seas Alliance
- Climate Action Network

New Zealand

- New Zealand Committee of IUCN-NZ
- Coal Action Network Aotearoa (CANA)
- The 2precious2mine coalition
- The Forest Stewardship Council New Zealand Environment Chamber
- The NZ Forest Accord.
- An alliance of groups working on marine issues.
- An alliance of groups working on forestry issues.
- A loose community of groups with a concern about mining impacts
- NZ Shark Alliance

Hui E!

ECO has cooperated with Hui E!, a New Zealand civil-society focused Trust, particularly in relation to Open government.

Union-ENGO meetings.

ECO continues to liaise with unions and others about matters of common environmental concern and matters relating to democratic freedoms and process.

IUCN – the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - Working for people and nature.

ECO is a long standing member of IUCN, and both Cath Wallace and Diana Shand have served in the past as Oceania Regional Councillor on IUCN's council.

Diana Shand is chair of the Theme on Social Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector (TSEAPRISE) within the IUCN Commission for Environmental Economic and Social Policy (CEESP). She is leading a project on Certification and Biodiversity.

Cath Wallace has served on an IUCN subcommittee giving input into the drafting of governance motions relating to the rights of IUCN members in decision

making and the limits of the Council's powers. related to governance and the relative powers of the Council vis-a-vis the authority of the members of IUCN. Within IUCN

Several ECO Executive Committee and members of ECO members are members of one or more of the IUCN's six expert Commissions.

Climate Change

ECO continues to cooperate with several academic and non-academic and activist groups with a shared concern for climate change.

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Members of ECO's international working group have promoted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the emphasis on responsibility as well as human rights, as promoted by the Earth Charter and by RESPONSE.

(vii) To create a sense of community for those organisations and individuals with a shared concern for the environment, conservation and ECO's other goals and objects.

4 ECO's Constitution and Policies

4.1 Changes to ECO's constitution

The 2015 AGM considered a paper about and some wording of reforms to ECO's Goals and Objectives. The AGM directed the Executive to further develop the proposals and to put these to a vote. Our team did that but voting responses were low. The Executive Committee also noted some minor constitutional problems and those are also to be put to the 2016 AGM.

4.2 The collation of our previously agreed policies has continued. The dossier of policies has been reconfigured into subjects but minor sub-editing remains to be done.

5.2 Developing our Funding

Appeals: ECO ran four email appeals over the course of the year and one written appeal, raising a total of about \$9,000.

Automatic payments:

APs are a useful way for ECO to have some surety over income and new APs are always welcomed. Thank you to those who already support us in this way.

Givealittle:

ECO's account with Givealittle is promoted on Facebook, the website and in Tiede as the primary means to donate to ECO. We may need to review this now that Spark is to impose a 5% fee from 1 September.

Grants:

The Working Together More Fund has helped us and our partners a good deal on our efforts to work on water. We received a grant of \$10,000 from the Working Together More Fund for work this year with partner groups Forest and Bird and the Freshwater Foundation.

We have a number of grant applications in and look forward to success with at least some of these.

Other revenue sources:

ECO partners with DoGooders, Stonearrow Jewellery, Craig Potton Books, The Entertainment Book, Ecosteam NZ, Buzzchannel and Payroll Giving. We receive a percentage of sales from the business ventures.

5.3 Internal Communications

See our reporting under our Objects.

5.4 Administration

The resource centre: our library and archives: has been weeded, reorganised and catalogued by a dedicated team of librarians and others. The periodicals collection catalogue is now on the ECO website and the Archives collection catalogue is now on The Community Archive website after a considerable amount of work by a team of volunteers.

6. Honorary Solicitor

Particular thanks to our Honorary Solicitor, Quentin Davies who continues to support us with donations and with *pro bono* legal advice.

7. ECO Members and Friends

7.1 ECO Membership

ECO's membership represents a wide range of organisations. They cover a wealth of issues and provide endless expertise and effort covering many localities. As is usual, some of our members have finished their work or run out of steam, while others have formed and flourished. Collectively, their work is huge, and they are unsung heroes.

ECO's 44 Member Groups are:

Appropriate Technology for Living Association
Buller Conservation Group
Civic Trust Auckland
Clean Earth League New Zealand
Climate Justice Taranaki
Coal Action Network Aotearoa
Conscious Consumers
Conservation Volunteers New Zealand
Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki
East Harbour Environmental Association
Eastern Bay of Islands Preservation Society
ECOmatters Environment Trust
Engineers for Social Responsibility
Environment Network Manawatu
Environmental Futures Inc.
Far North Environment Centre
Friends of Golden Bay
Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay
Friends of the Earth New Zealand
GE Free New Zealand
Greenpeace New Zealand
Guardians of Pauatahunui Inlet
Initial Volco Trust
Kaipatiki Ecological Restoration Project
Kiwis Against Seabed Mining
National Council of Women National Office
Nelson Environment Centre
New Zealand Sealion Trust
Orari River Protection Group
RESPONSE Trust
Royal Forest and Bird North Canterbury branch
Save the Otago Peninsula
Soil and Health Association
South Coast Environment Society
Sustainable Otago Christchurch
Sustainable Whanganui Trust
Te Aroha Earthwatch
Thames Coast Preservation and Protection Society
Waiheke Sustainability Centre
Wellington Botanical Society
West Coast Environment Network
West Coast Penguin Trust
Wildlife Conservation Trust
Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust

7.2 Friends of ECO

ECO continues to value the support of loyal life and subscribing Friends of ECO.

The number of our supporters and friends on social media has grown significantly over the past year and all these supporters are valued and we'd welcome them as ECO Friends.

We have 127 paid up Friends.

8. Finance

8.1 Overview

We have had improved success with fundraising but ECO remains under-funded and in need of additional help to cover our costs. Donations of money, time, and in-kind contributions are all very welcome.

8.2 Donations, automatic payments

ECO is grateful to those who respond so generously to our appeals. These form an essential part of our income and we could not manage without the support of our donor base. A huge thank you to you all. Also to the people who make regular automatic payments to ECO: thank you! You are truly sustaining ECO.

We are grateful to all those who have contributed donations to ECO of time or of money.

9 Volunteers who have helped ECO 2015-16

We have many wonderful volunteers to thank this year. Without them, our work at ECO would not be possible.

- Tom Anderson for his assistance with IT in the ECO office
- Quentin Davies, our honorary solicitor, who has given us invaluable support and advice
- Linda Pears for her library cataloguing work and help with ECOLink
- Zubin Unwala for his help in the office with the archives and the sorting of office files, and technology help.
- Pooja Dave for her sterling work with cataloguing the archives
- Richard Miller for his work on the ECO archives and for designing and analysing our Open government Survey
- Yvonne Curtis for help with analysing the qualitative element of the Open government survey.
- Jan Rivers (Open government Working group leader) and survey initiator.

- Emily Donaldson and Valentine Noreve, interns in 2015-16.
- Chris Livesey, who did much of our Land and Water Forum work and picked up other tasks such as arranging memorial occasions for nationally significant conservationists and environmentalists.
- Catherine Iorn-Magallenes who organised the biodiversity offsets seminar in Wellington for ECO as part of our contribution to IUCN NZ
- Kudzai Mvere and Adriana Zambrano who worked on further formatting of our policy portfolio
- Nathanael Yew-Pringle for his help with ECOLink mailings, stalls and catering
- Juliette Irwin for her help on ECO stalls

10 Reflections and Looking Ahead

The challenges for ECO and its member groups are considerable, and similar to those facing voluntary organisations nation-wide. Some of our former member groups have fallen by the wayside, exhausted. Others have joined ECO, seeking strength in our association, and committed to our work.

On the positive side, there is a burgeoning of younger organisations and networks using social media and knowledge of how to trigger and reinforce behavior change to provide better environmental outcomes.

We are encouraged by the resurgence of conservation and restoration groups who are working to tackle invasive species, and the scientific advances and innovations that are helping conservation. We welcome the government's vision for a predator free New Zealand but know that much more funding for DoC and for pest and weed control is needed.

Climate change and biophysical systems destabilization are moving far faster than expected – but we sense that the populace is growing tired of governmental smoke and mirrors and procrastination. Some businesses are taking matters into their own hands, but not on a scale to shift the bulk of our economy to a low carbon economy. We salute those who have done and invite those, such as Fonterra, who have not, to follow the lead of the likes of Lancorp to reduce their environmental hoof-print.

We salute people and institutions who are divesting from fossil fuels – thank you, that is important.

We will of course be hoping that incoming local government councils will take the greatest of care with our environment – and will resist the centralization of power that the present government is trying to impose by taking decision making away from communities and by providing Ministers with sweeping but ill confined power. Regional and local democracy is vital.

2017 is General Election year. We will work for better funding and policies for conservation and environmental protection, but also for much more enlightened national objectives than the extractivist old-style economic growth model.

Public policy thinking and the evidence of what makes for life satisfaction and sustainable gains for people and the means of living within sustainable planetary limits has advanced far beyond what we in New Zealand have been subjected to of late. We have many, many sources of well being that are not being fostered, and we have national shame at our social injustice and our environmental losses. We could be doing so much more and so much better.

We have had to, and will continue to, devote efforts to protect the operating environment for civil society, academics including scientists, freedoms of speech and association, rights to non-violent protest and the rights of the non-government sector. We have been alarmed at the rapid erosion of these, and the growing mistrust of the executive wing of government. Lack of honesty and truth in government has emerged as a major concern in our Open government survey.

ECO has never been afraid to speak truth to power. Nor are we afraid to support those who do right or to applaud the good efforts of governments that do the right thing for the environment and the community.

Our members do a vast amount of brilliant work – and we know that New Zealanders care hugely about conservation and the environment. We will continue to work with others in the community, with tangata whenua, with those in local government, government and in business to achieve our goals and objectives.
