

**ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)**

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**Membership Application Information**

Thank you for your interest in joining ECO. As you may know, we are the national alliance of 60+ organisations concerned with the environment. In recent years one of our main focuses has been the RMA, Climate Change and the marine environment. ECO is a leading force in the campaign for reform of marine environmental management from the present system, which is dominated by extractive interests, to an ecosystem-based approach.

In order to put your application to the Executive Committee for verification, we need the following information from you - we ask this of all applicant groups to ensure a congruence of aims. We need from you:

- 1) Completed 'Member Information' form
- 2) Details about your policies towards the environment and conservation;
- 3) Copies of your most recent publications; and
- 4) A copy of your constitution

**The collective importance of ECO**

ECO writes submissions, co-ordinates campaigns, shares information, educates and empowers local groups. We publicise issues of concern to keep people informed. We maintain links between organisations and with statutory and non-statutory bodies and government agencies. We attend regular Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Ministry of Fisheries' liaison meetings. ECO can raise member groups' concerns at these meetings if you keep us informed of these.

ECO maintains links with international networks, including IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Environment Centre Liaison International, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), and Climate Action Network (CAN).

From time to time, ECO arranges conferences or regional meetings on particular issues for feedback on ECO policy and to promote input by local groups. For instance, there were a series of seminars on the Resource Management Act in 1992 and ECO organised a major conference on marine ecosystem management ('SeaViews') in 1998. The Marine seminar series, which consisted of five seminars with various expert speakers, took place in April to May 2000. ECO ran, with Forest and Bird, a series of seminars on Ministry of Fisheries' proposed Environmental and Management Strategy in late 2001. In January 2011, ECO held two workshops on Communicating Biodiversity and Climate Change, in conjunction with the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication.

As well as representing ECO member groups in New Zealand, ECO has a supporting role disseminating information on things like fund-raising and legal protections (e.g. incorporation). ECO has established an environment resource centre to assist in making information resources available.

### **Applying for Membership**

We believe that we can help to make organisations with a concern for the environment more linked to each other and more influential.

The basic requirements for membership, as set out in ECO's constitution, are as follows: organisations at national, regional, or local level (a) which are committed wholly, or partly, to work in various aspects of environment and conservation; and (b) whose aims and policy are in sympathy with those of ECO. The law requires the bodies applying to join us to be incorporated.

### **Membership**

ECO's funding is reliant on donations, subscriptions from members and individual supporters ('Friends of ECO'), and one-off grants for specific projects. Funding is always a struggle, so help from members to encourage support is welcomed, both for new member organisations and for individual supporters (non members) who are Friends of ECO.

Member bodies receive four *ECOLink* newsletters per year, together with other topical documents and email notices from ECO. Member bodies are welcome to submit articles for the *ECOLink*.

Submissions are prepared on behalf of ECO by members of the Executive Committee and others on the following: bills before Parliament; reviews of legislation; Draft Management Plans and much more etc. Member bodies receive copies of these on request and may endorse them or disclaim them if they wish.

An annual conference and Annual General Meeting is arranged for our member bodies and interested individuals every year.

### **ECO Executive Committee**

The ECO Executive Committee is elected by member organisations at the AGM. Votes are allocated according to the size of the organisation: 1 to 100 members = 1 vote; 100 to 1000 members = 2 votes; 1000-4999 members = 3 votes; 5000+ members = 4 votes.

The Executive Committee normally meets monthly. Teleconferencing and electronic mail ensures the executive has national representation. Representatives of member bodies are welcome to apply to attend all or part of our committee meetings, or to ask for issues to be discussed at them.

We look forward to working with you.