

Manawatū River Source-to-Sea 2017 - 2040
A whole-of-catchment approach to enhancing our biodiversity

Summary

This proposal for a “Source-to-Sea” programme intends to bring together the many projects throughout the Manawatū River Catchment which are working at enhancing *biodiversity*¹, and through that, the health of rivers and the wellbeing of our (human) communities. “Source-to-Sea” is a community-led initiative and has been developed by the Biodiversity Cluster Group, of Environment Network Manawatu (ENM)², and members of the wider public. The aim of Source-to-Sea is to sustain and enhance the biodiversity of the Manawatū through maximising the power and benefits from working together, and sharing ideas and resources. This is an inclusive programme that invites participation from iwi/hapū and all sectors and communities in the region.

Vision: What Manawatū River Source-to-Sea will look like in 2040

“Manawatū River Source-to-Sea” is an integrated network of biodiversity-focused initiatives, other nature-related activities, and sustainable business activities that collectively contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity and provide benefits to the Manawatu River Catchment community.

Mission: Our overall approach to reach our objectives

To collaborate and connect with the Manawatū River Catchment community in a manner that drives the enhancement of *biodiversity* and the parallel development of a sustainable extended nature-based experience from the river’s source to the sea.

Objectives: Source-to-Sea sets out to achieve:

- Enhanced *biodiversity* (i.e. indigenous and endemic biodiversity) throughout the catchment;
- A physically connected network of initiatives enhancing *biodiversity*;
- A range of sustainable, extended nature-based experiences connected via walking and biking trails;
- An enlightened approach to business enhancing *biodiversity* simultaneously with the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of our community;
- Community pride in and connectivity with a *biodiversity*-rich catchment;
- Communities which are in support of the Source-to-Sea vision;
- Communities which are collaborating with each other and relevant agencies throughout the catchment to enhance biodiversity;
- A well-established research and monitoring programme with clear goals and showing progress over time.

The Programme of work will take place on two levels:

- On the level of the overall catchment, a Source-to-Sea umbrella group will continuously facilitate and support existing initiatives and the initiation of new ones;
- On the ground, individual community groups will own and drive their localised projects.

¹ In the context of Manawatū River Source-to-Sea, “*biodiversity*”, encompasses the diverse biota, fauna and flora native to New Zealand, especially endemic to the Manawatū River Catchment; functioning in natural ways, and specified in the context of actual localities and spatial scales, be it on land, in stream or along the coast” (Definition: Dr Jill Rapson, 2016)

² ENM is a charitable umbrella organisation serving environmentally focused not-for-profit community groups in the Manawatū River Catchment. Out of 50 member groups, 22 have a particular interest in biodiversity and freshwater.