



ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND 2017 NEW ZEALAND ELECTION MESSAGE

In the lead up to the 2017 New Zealand election, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) urges all political parties to do more for our environment and those professionals working to manage it on behalf of all New Zealanders.

As the peak body representing environmental practitioners across Australia and New Zealand, EIANZ recognises the link between a healthy environment, a healthy economy and the wellbeing of current and future generations of New Zealanders. EIANZ members bring passion, ingenuity and creativity to their environmental work, leading the way in good environmental management. They bring innovation, science, modern technologies, education and management systems to our investment in the future. EIANZ members know that their aspirations for a healthy environment are shared by a large number of New Zealanders.

OUR MESSAGE TO ALL POLITICAL PARTIES THIS ELECTION

1. Governments at all levels have a shared responsibility to maintain and improve the New Zealand environment through the legal and policy regimes put in place for the stewardship and management of the environment.
2. To be most effective in managing complex risks, environmental practitioners need to be professionally recognised by the community and this is not currently the case. EIANZ sees this as akin to the medical or legal professions being left out of delivery of medical care or justice respectively. It makes no sense and now is the time for change.
3. As we celebrate the Institute's 30th anniversary, the EIANZ calls on all political parties to acknowledge that the time has arrived for the environment profession to be recognised within the environmental stewardship and management regimes of New Zealand by:
 - Requiring persons undertaking environmental planning and assessment work (in both private and public sectors) to be members of a recognised professional body, with a commitment to members practicing under a code of ethics and professional conduct.
 - Requiring that all environmental impact assessments (Assessments of Environmental Effects in the *Resource Management Act*), however funded, be endorsed by a Certified Environmental Practitioner as having been

prepared in a manner based on best available science, in accordance with a professional association code of ethics and professional conduct, and to meet all legal requirements.

In addition, EIANZ highlights the following issues meriting the support of all parties in the 2017 Central Government election.

SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF LAWS AND POLICIES THAT PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

EIANZ believes that New Zealand's laws for protection of the environment can be improved, and it advocates that:

- The principles of ecologically sustainable development, including the precautionary principle, should be retained as a fundamental basis for our environmental laws and decision-making at central and local government levels.
- Certified Environmental Practitioners with a commitment to ethical practice should be required to lead and sign off on the assessments of impacts of projects under New Zealand law.
- Adequate environmental monitoring, based on effective environmental performance standards, should be required within the conditions of consent for all projects and programmes approved by local and regional councils, the Environment Court and the Environmental Protection Authority.

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SUPPORT INVESTMENT TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

EIANZ supports the outcomes of the Paris Conference of Parties on climate change, including actions by governments to:

- Commit to substantial cuts in carbon emissions
- Introduce strong economic measures to reduce carbon emissions, including the pricing of carbon and removing disincentives and subsidies that act against the achievement of carbon emission reduction targets.
- Support investment in climate change mitigation and renewable energy, including investments in science, research and development relating to improving our understanding of climate change challenges and energy efficiency responses.
- Support programmes delivering policies and actions to adapt and build resilience to climate change, particularly within communities, and in relation to the infrastructure upon which they depend.

We urge all parties to support the need for national guidance from central government on the reduction of greenhouse gases and adaptation and mitigation measures including policies on how responses to climate change and sea-level rise are to be funded.

SUPPORT IMPROVED MEASURES TO PROTECT NEW ZEALAND'S UNIQUE AND THREATENED SPACES AND SPECIES

EIANZ supports investment in more effective protection of New Zealand's unique biota, and advocates that:

- All parties support increased investment in research and management to reduce the threats to our iconic landscapes, as well as to rare and threatened flora and fauna.

SUPPORT MEASURES TO IMPROVE NEW ZEALAND'S MANAGEMENT OF ITS FRESH WATER RESOURCE

EIANZ supports measures to address the causes of water pollution including run-off from farming operations and urban settlements, discharges, land clearance and leaching from contaminated sites.

As a body that supports environmental practitioners to practice competently, ethically and to be accountable for the quality of their advice, EIANZ supports the need for clear standards for water quality and clear methods for monitoring and measuring water quality that are backed up by scientifically-based research.

EIANZ urges all parties to support legislative changes to improve water quality, including the implementation of national standards that are effective and measurable.

EIANZ also urges all parties to support the introduction of measures which will hold government agencies and local and regional councils to account for the adoption of policies and practices that will lead to improvements in water quality.

ABOUT THE EIANZ

Founded in 1987, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is the peak professional association for environmental practitioners in both Australia and New Zealand.

The EIANZ:

- REPRESENTS the interests of its members;
- SUPPORTS members during careers
- ADVOCATES improved standards of practice
- CONNECTS practitioners
- LEADS the profession.

It does this through:

- Promoting independent and interdisciplinary discussion on environmental issues
- Advocating environmental knowledge and awareness
- Advancing ethical and competent environmental practice.

Our members come from all areas of environmental practice, and include practitioners from government, industry, consulting, and academia.



Environment Institute
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