

EDS News

Mackenzie Country under threat: Help!
RMA not delivering for the environment
Hauraki Gulf Book launched
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EDS shifts office

Mackenzie Country under threat from irrigation and land clearance: Help!

The Mackenzie District Council plan to bolster protection of the Mackenzie Basin's outstanding tussock grassland heads to the Environment Court for a 2-week hearing at the end of January.

EDS is pushing hard for better protection of the Basin's iconic landscape, geomorphic, and ecological values. The Mackenzie Country is the last bastion for many of New Zealand's unique ecosystems, and indigenous plants and creatures, some of which aren't found anywhere else in the world. It is important that Plan Change 13 gets it right so that these values aren't lost.

The case is complex and there are many competing interests in play. EDS needs help to make sure it can continue to play a strong and active role at the hearing. Supporters can make targeted donations [here](#).

Hauraki Gulf Book Sets Sail!

We held a very successful launch of Raewyn Peart's latest book *The Story of the Hauraki Gulf* last month at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, Auckland. Around 150 people joined us for the event. Thank you to everyone who made it a great night. Special thanks go to Ports of Auckland for sponsoring the refreshments and to Clevedon Coast Oysters for providing delicious fresh oysters.

Speakers at the event included Scott Simpson, MP for Coromandel, Sir Rob Fenwick, Businessman and Environmentalist, Phil Clow, Commercial Fisherman, Sue Neureuter, Custodian of the Noises Islands and Raewyn Peart, Book Author.

The book has been very well received. Geoff Chapple at the *Listener* wrote an excellent review [include web link to the review] Sales of the book have been so high that it will shortly be out of print and a second edition is due out just before Christmas. So if you want some copies for yourself or for family/friends we suggest you order now at [email link to order page].

Attach a couple of photos from the launch, perhaps one with me and Scott Simpson and one of the pile of books for sale.

New report: RMA not delivering for the environment

September 28th saw EDS launch our latest report, *Evaluating the Environmental Outcomes of the RMA*. The report arose from a partnership between EDS and Infrastructure New Zealand, Employers and Manufacturers Association (Northern) and the Property Council. The report brought together existing and original data to conclude that the RMA was not delivering for the environment in many areas, largely as a result of weak implementation. The report identifies ten key issues constraining good environmental outcomes and you can read about them here (report link).

The launch was hosted by Chapman Tripp in Auckland and well attended by politicians, industry groups, government officials and environmental organisations. Lead author Dr Marie Brown gave an overview presentation, setting out the research approach and outlining key conclusions. This was followed by a panel discussion with the three industry partners and EDS CEO Gary Taylor. This report is another step in EDS's continuing research programme on resource management reform.

Climate Change Conference rates highly

Feedback from attendees at the *Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference* held in Auckland earlier this month rated the event highly. 95% rated it "good" or "excellent" in meeting overall expectations. A large majority said they thought the event should be run on an annual basis.

A key outcome from the event was strong interest in establishing a

Climate Commission to plan, recommend and monitor the transition to zero net emissions over the next several decades. The CEO of the UK Climate Committee which has that role in the United Kingdom described the way his Committee works to moderate changes in political leadership while Sir Jonathan Porritt (Forum for the Future) offered generally supportive critique of the way the Committee is working.

EDS invites expressions of interest from prospective partners for next year's event, which will likely be held in October.

Change of Office

EDS has shifted office to After many years based in Northcote Point, EDS has changed location. Note our new telephone number: 09 302 2972. If you are visiting our office for a meeting, check out our location on the EDS website here (<http://www.eds.org.nz/our-people/contact-us/>).