

Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpu consultation background document

Consultation period 28 November 2018 – 18 December 2018

Introduction

This consultation document has been developed to provide an overview of what is being developed in the youth participation space at Environment Canterbury. Feedback on the structure, focus, group make up and recruitment is being sought through this process.

A group of young people have formed a working group (Youth Participation Platform Working Group or YPPWG) with support from the Environment Canterbury Youth Engagement and Education Team (YEET). This has been done to bring to life the aspirations, conversations and ideas that have been developed over the course of two years. So far, the group has engaged the voices of young people, Environment Canterbury staff and Councillors. Each group's voice has been given weight and the final decision around the structure and purpose has sat with the working group with support from YEET team leader Hannah Dunlop.

In this document you will find a brief background, rationale and the framework for the Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpu (EYR).

Specifically, feedback is sought from the following groups

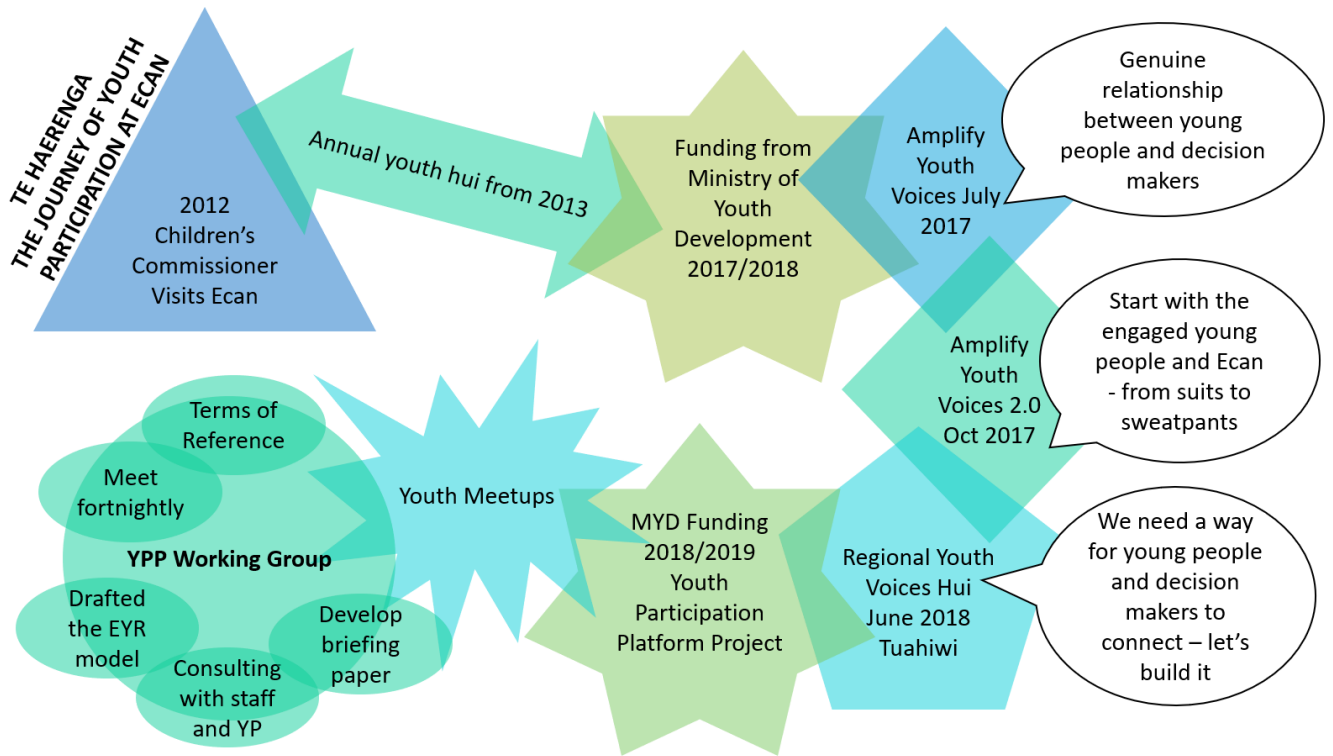
- Any young person aged 12-24
- Youth voice groups e.g. youth councils, advisory groups, special interest groups
- People working with young people and youth organisations
- Territorial Local Authorities
- Community groups with an interest in youth participation.

How you can give feedback:

- Online survey on website –
- Email: education@ecan.govt.nz
- Post: ATTN: Youth Engagement and Education Team, PO Box 345, Christchurch 8140.
- Or you can contact Hannah Dunlop 03 3653828 0274054895

Background

The diagram below outlines how we got to where we are today.

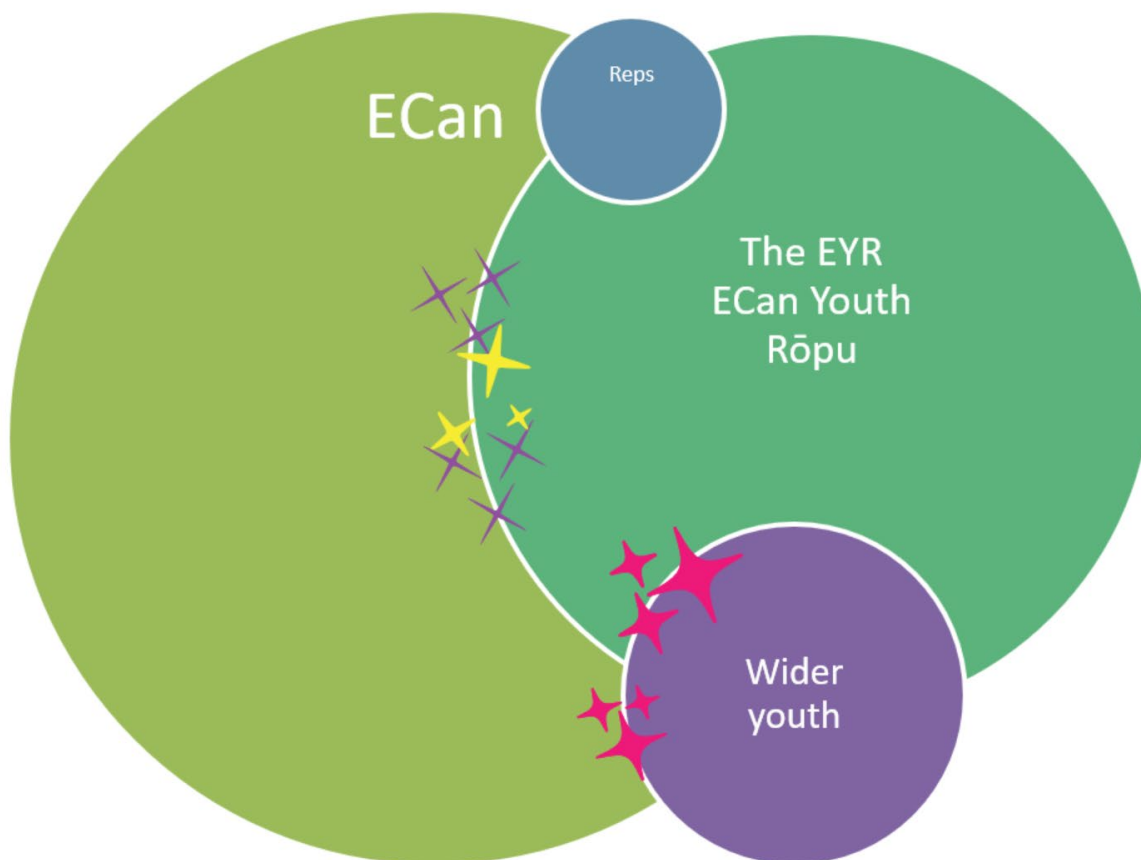


Why do this?


1. Youth engagement and education is an essential function for Environment Canterbury to deliver outcomes, strategic enablers and levels of service. This aligns with the Regional Leadership Portfolio level of service that 'A wide cross-section of the community's views will be heard by Council, including youth'.
2. Young people will be impacted by the decisions of today - Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri, ā muri ake nei – for us and our children after us. Ensuring they have the opportunities and ability to engage in civic leadership early in life is important. Youth engagement and participation ensures better decisions, more active citizenship, strengthened community leadership and credibility of Environment Canterbury.
3. Youth engagement and participation is a right under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpu

4. Outlined here is the structure, focus, membership and recruitment method for the EYR.



5. The diagram demonstrates the different elements of the proposed structure.

- **ECan:** Environment Canterbury Regional Council – includes Councillors and staff.
- **The EYR:** Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpu: This is the formalised group of young people that will have a membership and key objectives to work on including working with Councillors and Environment Canterbury staff.
- **Reps:** These would be representatives from the EYR that could attend Council meetings. Ideas for this include rotating members.
- **Wider Youth:** this is the more informal group of young people with an open structure. This would likely take the shape of the 'Youth Meetups' that have been happening once a month on Fridays and via social media and online mediums. The content and structure of this will be supported by the EYR. It will have a more relaxed feel.
-  **Consultation 'sparkles':** Consultation sparkles is the magic that occurs when consultation is made fun and engaging to be effective and build quality relationships.

6. The proposed focus for the EYR is:
 - Organising events
 - Social media and communication – canvassing and connecting a diverse range of young people
 - Organising consultations and submissions
 - Provide advice to Councillors and Staff. This could include testing of concepts, being involved early on in a drafting process, advising on how to engage young people
 - Attend Environment Canterbury meetings of relevance. A point was raised in staff consultation that Environment Canterbury meetings need to be made accessible to young people.
7. The proposed make-up of the group is:
 - Young people that are interested and willing to be involved
 - Mirror structure of Council proposed to the Local Government Commission, as well as two Ngāi Tahu to match the proposal in the Local Bill
 - There is some debate about taking members based on geographic representation or interest base much like what is done for the Zone Committees. Geographic is favoured at this stage.
8. Young people could become members by:
 - Application processes
 - Clear criteria
 - Selection panel with young people and adults.

Considerations

9. During this process in-depth discussions have been had on several issues. They are not pertinent to this phase of the project but the YPPWG wanted to highlight these to demonstrate they will be considered and be recommended to the incoming EYR:
 - Being intentional about reaching out to a diverse range of young people - the environment impacts on everyone.
 - Training of 'adults' and 'young people' - both groups will be involved in trainings to help build capability for effective engagement.
 - Access to face to face meetings for the EYR will need to have transport support offered and use of technology to connect on a more regular basis.
 - Recommendation for 2-4 face to face meetings of the EYR per year and more regular online meetings and online forum.