

Environment Canterbury's Youth Rōpū is a body of young people aged 14-24 who are enthusiastic about the environment, civics and empowering young people across Waitaha (Canterbury).

Made up of 16 members, two from each voting constituency and two mana whenua representatives, the Youth Rōpū has been formed to facilitate a two-way relationship between young people and decision makers in Waitaha.

With the support of the [Youth Engagement and Education team](#), the Youth Rōpū gives young people in the Canterbury region an opportunity to promote the issues they care about.

The Youth Rōpū has two priorities; to ensure that the voices of young people are heard by decision makers and staff at Environment Canterbury and to engage youth across Waitaha with their regional council.

To fulfil these objectives, the Youth Rōpū undertakes a variety of ongoing and project-based initiatives such as:

- Providing advice to Council on their annual and long-term plans
- Running monthly youth meetups in Christchurch and Timaru to engage with young people from across Waitahi
- Advocating for youth members to be added as community members to [Canterbury Water Zone Committees](#), with several Youth Rōpū members already having or soon to be appointed to their local committees
- Developing relationships with other youth organisations in Waitahi
- Running various other events across Waitahi.

What Youth Rōpū membership involves

The Youth Rōpū recruits biannually, during which time young people are invited to apply for any vacancies on the rōpū.

More information on the application process can be found on the [Have Your Say\(external link\)](#) platform, where applications are also submitted during recruitment periods.

During the academic year, the Youth Rōpū meets once a month in Christchurch and fortnightly for an online meeting, with members expected to make a minimum time commitment of six hours per month.