

CATHERINE H. KNIGHT (PHD)

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ABOUT ME

I am an energetic, disciplined and principled individual who thrives on making a difference through deep, strategic thinking and clear communication. I have 15 years working in policy across the government sector (central, regional and local), as well as several years' experience in governance, education and project management roles. I am currently working in a senior strategic role in the local government sector.

Professionally, my biggest achievements are the publication of five books, being convener of Aotearoa's first ever Nature and Wellbeing Symposium, my work as lead writer of New Zealand's first statutory all-of-environment report – *Environment Aotearoa 2015*, and advice to the Minister for the Environment on proposed changes to sections 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act.

I also hold two academic roles: Senior Associate at the Institute of Governance and Policy Studies, University of Victoria Wellington, and Honorary Research Associate, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University. I am also an award-winning non-fiction author, and bring my well-honed skills in writing and communication to all my roles. I am an experienced public speaker, frequently being invited as keynote speaker at professional and scientific conferences.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- In-depth experience developing complex policy from first principles
- Proven excellence in research and writing (see also Awards section)
- Excellent analytical and critical-thinking skills
- Reputation for integrity and honesty
- Very strong communication and presentation skills
- Proven ability in stakeholder engagement and relationship management
- In-depth experience in governance roles
- Extensive project management experience
- Comprehensive understanding of environmental policy and management.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Kapiti Coast District Council

Principal Advisor – Strategy & Growth

March 2022 – current

Responsible for:

- Strategic advice at the organisational level
- Development of District-wide Climate Strategy
- Oversight for implementation of District Growth Strategy
- Council representative on Wellington Regional Leadership Committee projects, e.g., Future Development Strategy, Papakāinga Toolkit project
- Project lead – Town centre vision projects.

Manawatu District Council

Senior Policy Advisor (fixed term role)

2020 – 2021

KHM Consulting, Wellington/Manawatu

Lead consultant

2016 – 2022

Projects I have worked on in this role:

- Development of workshop series exploring nature and wellbeing – Department of Conservation
- Consultant for Comms Collective Aotearoa (clients include Toitu, Predator Free 2050 Ltd, Certified Energy)
- Science writer – Ministry for the Environment
- Senior policy advisor (contract) – Kāpiti Coast District Council
- Lead Advisor on development of Environmental Strategy – Manawatu District Council
- Convener – Nature and Wellbeing Symposium 2021 (hosted by the Ministry for the Environment)

- Advisor on development and evaluation of educational outreach programme – SCAPE Public Art, Christchurch
- State of the Environment Report (including data gathering, analysis, recommendations for presentation), Porirua Harbour – Porirua City Council
- Lead writer, Whanganui-a-tara Whaitua (freshwater catchment) Committee 2019 summary report – Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Lead writer, Ngāti Toa Rangitira Statement on Porirua Whaitua – Ngāti Toa Rangitira
- Review/editing of Porirua Whaitua Implementation Plan – Greater Wellington Regional Council
- Review/editing of Economic Development Action Plan Report for Central Hawke’s Bay District Council
- Review/editing of draft District Plan – Central Hawke’s Bay District Council
- Review/editing of draft National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity & Supporting package – Biodiversity Collaborative Group
- Outcomes & future strategy paper for Virtuoso Strings Trust (a community education programme)
- Review/editing of Consultation Document for District Plan Review – Manawatu District Council
- Policy support for Bylaws Review – Tararua District Council
- Hood Aerodrome Management Plan – Masterton District Council
- Lead writer/editor for Horizons Long Term Plan
- Lead writer/editor for Horizons 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy
- Review of Community Outcomes for Horizons Region
- Formulation of Manawatu-Whanganui Civil Defence & Emergency Management Group’s submission on Draft Director’s Guideline: Strategic Recovery Planning
- Report outlining the work and history of environmental restoration groups on the Kapiti Coast – Kapiti Coast District Council (Jan 2017 – May 2017)
- Evaluation of erosion and sedimentation mitigation policies – Horizons Regional Council (Nov 2016 – April 2017)

Ministry for the Environment, Wellington

Senior Policy Analyst

2013 – April 2017

Projects I have worked on in this role (in reverse chronological order) include:

- Project lead for the development of Code of Compliance for landscape assessment, in partnership with New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects
- Rewrite of Conservation and Environment Science Road Map, released February 2017, to improve readability and accessibility
- National direction policy under the Resource Management Act, including for aquaculture
- Senior policy support on the development of the Environmental Reporting Bill
- Lead writer for *Environment Aotearoa 2015*
- Contract manager/project lead for project to develop Te Ao Maori measures for environmental reporting
- Senior policy support for reforms under the Resource Management Act
- Member of Ministry-wide Regulatory Impact Assessment Panel

Ministry for the Environment, Wellington

Policy Analyst

2007 – 2013

Policy areas and other responsibilities in this role (in reverse chronological order) include:

- Policy lead for proposed National Policy Statement for Biodiversity
- Member of Ministry-wide Regulatory Impact Assessment Panel
- Freshwater policy
- Hazardous waste and waste minimisation policy

International Pacific College, Palmerston North

Lecturer

2005 – 2007

In this role my responsibilities included:

- Lecturer in language, culture and history papers
- Development of teaching resources

- Assistance with NZQA applications for new course
- Supervision of graduate thesis students
- Contribution to research outputs (academic publications, conference papers)

Tait Electronics Ltd, Christchurch

Translation Project Manager 2001 – 2005

Planning, scheduling and coordination of translation projects for both marketing communications and technical publications.

Trimble Navigation Ltd, Christchurch

Translation Project Manager 1998 – 2001

Planning and coordination of documentation development and the translation of software and manuals for product releases into several languages

ACADEMIC/EDITORIAL ROLES

Journal of Environmental History (Oxford Academic)

Editorial Board 2021 – current

Institute of Governance and Policy Studies, University of Victoria Wellington

Senior Associate 2018 – current

School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

Honorary Research Associate 2017 – current,
2013 – 2014

GOVERNANCE ROLES

Rivers Group (a technical group of Engineering New Zealand)

Committee member 2017 – 2018

Ngā Manu Nature Reserve

Board trustee 2010 – 2017

Kāpiti Primary School

Board trustee 2013 – 2015

SELECTED QUALIFICATIONS

University of Canterbury

Doctorate in Japanese Studies 2007

Thesis: The bear as barometer: the Japanese response to human-bear conflict

University of Canterbury

Master of Arts in Japanese Studies 2004

Thesis title: Veneration or destruction? Japanese ambivalence to nature, with special reference to nature conservation.

Massey University

Post-graduate Diploma in Development Studies 1996

Massey University

Diploma in Business Studies 1996

AWARDS

Palmerston North Heritage Trust Award for Best Book, 2018–19 2019

New Zealand History Research Trust Fund Award in History 2018

Short-listed for the New Zealand Heritage Book Awards (Beyond Manapouri) 2018

Earle Creativity and Development Trust – 2017 History or Literature Grant 2017

Short-listed for the New Zealand Heritage Book Awards (New Zealand's Rivers) 2017

J.M. Sherrard Award for excellence in local and regional history (major award for 2014-15)	2017
Long-listed for the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards 2017 (New Zealand's Rivers)	2016
Selected as one of the 'Best Books' for 2016 by the <i>New Zealand Listener</i>	2016
Palmerston North Heritage Trust Award for best work of history of the Manawatu	2015
New Zealand History Research Trust Fund Award in History	2014
Palmerston North City Natural and Cultural Heritage Incentive Fund	2012
Claude McCarthy Fellowship	2011
New Zealand History Research Trust Fund Award in History	2011
University of Canterbury Doctoral Scholarship	2005
Barbara Mito Reed Award	2005
University of Canterbury Master's Scholarship	2003

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

'Environmental policy in New Zealand: Tracing the roots of dysfunction', in Maze & Richardson (eds) *Policy-making under pressure: Rethinking the policy process in Aotearoa New Zealand*, 2021.

Nature and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand. Totara Press, 2020.

'A potted history of freshwater management in New Zealand', *Policy Quarterly*, 15(3), August 2019.

'Are politics getting in the way of good freshwater governance?' in Joy, M. *Mountains to Sea: Solving New Zealand's freshwater crisis*. Bridgett Williams Books, 2018.

'The meaning of rivers in Aotearoa New Zealand – Past and future', *River Research and Applications*, 17 September 2018.

Wildbore: A photographic legacy. Totara Press, 2018.

Beyond Manapouri: 50 years of environmental politics in New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, 2018.

'Modernising Rivers: River 'improvement' efforts and hydroelectric power development' in R. Bell (ed.), *New Zealand Between the Wars*, Massey University Press, 2017.

New Zealand's Rivers: An environmental history. Canterbury University Press, 2016.

Ravaged Beauty: An environmental history of the Manawatu. Dunmore Press, 2014.

'Creating a pastoral world through fire: the case of the Manawatu, 1870 – 1910', *Journal of New Zealand Studies*, 16, (2013).

'The paradox of discourse concerning deforestation in New Zealand: a historical survey', *Journal of Environment and History*, 15(3).

Please see catherineknight.nz for a full list of publications