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 clear thinking and communication. I have nine years experience working in public policy, as well as several years experience in governance and project management roles. I am an award-winning non-fiction author, and bring my well-honed skills in writing and communication to all my roles.

Professionally, my biggest achievements are the publication of three books, my work as lead writer of New Zealand’s first ever 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.

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
* 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
* Advanced ability in Japanese language and extensive translation experience.

Employment History

KHM Consulting, Wellington/Manawatu

Consultant/Director

Projects I have worked on in this role: 2016 –

* Evaluation of erosion and sedimentation mitigation policies – Horizons Regional Council (Nov 2016 – April 2017)
* Report outlining the work and history of environmental restoration groups on the Kapiti Coast – Kapiti Coast District Council (Jan 2017 – May 2017)
* 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
* Lead writer/editor for Horizons 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy
* Lead writer/editor for Horizons Long Term Plan

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

research roles

School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

Honorary Research Associate 2017 – 2019, 2013 – 2014

governance roles

Rivers Group (a technical group of Engineering New Zealand)

Committee member (Manawatu Region) 2017 – now

Nga Manu Nature Reserve

Board trustee 2010 – 2017

Kapiti 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

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

Short-listed for the New Zealand Heritage Book Awards **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 **2016**

Selected as one of the ‘Best Books’ for 2016 by the *New Zealand Listener* **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

*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