

2026: Highlights So Far

The FMC Strategic Plan 2025-2027 guides our work



Following our successful opposition last year, we monitored development of application amendments to discharge treated waste into the Whangaehu River; we anticipate submitting again in August.

Submitted on access impacts on the proposed fast-track land exchange application for the Tukituki Hydro scheme in the Eastern Ruahines; we expect to comment on the draft DOC decision in October.

Following our speedy engagement, DOC quickly corrected illegal closures and restored public access to Harwoods Hole Track.

We opposed DOC's disposal of Evangeline Bivvy, Lake Sumner (Hora Kura) Forest Park, suggested the local Recreation User Group is reinstated, and supported the proposed solution of a new bivvy.

We joined the newly formed Cape Palliser Road Access Group to collectively identify workable public access solutions.

We submitted feedback on the Molesworth Recreation Reserve concession tender process especially around recreation and public access.

Following our extensive opposition including obtaining legal opinions, and opposition by DOC and NZ Conservation Authority, we were deeply disappointed that the fast-track Waitaha Hydro Project was approved. We learnt important lessons to apply to future fast-track projects.



ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

In June we welcomed our new Executive including new President Allan Brent and Vice President Liz Wightwick, and held our AGM.

We submitted on 4 major national issues including:

- the Conservation Amendment Bill which proposes the most significant changes to NZ conservation legislation in almost 40 years.
- the Planning and Natural Environment Bills which will replace the Resource Management Act.
- the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill, including working with government to re-word some of the recreation related legislation.

We also started work on 2 major national issues, with submissions due in the coming months:

- Crown Land Legislation Amendment Bill
- DOC's National Conservation Policy Statement

We collaborated with many other recreation organisations on the above.



We met with Ministers and MPs to discuss conservation, health & safety, and fast-track legislation.



Our relationship and engagement with DOC remained strong, including our work to resolve illegal track closures, and long-standing participation in various DOC-led recreation forums to support positive national and local outcomes.



Our Love Our Huts second season finished with >250 huts loved. Planning for LOH third season started including development of an online registration portal: registrations open October 2026. We thank the Tūpiki Trust for supporting Love Our Huts.



We supported 93 clubs (22,000+ members) and over 1,000 individual supporters through advocacy, engagement and member benefits.



As a parent organisation we continued to support the Backcountry Trust, and also appointed trustees to the FMC Mountain & Forest Trust and Maerewhenua Trust.

We thank the FMC Mountain & Forest Trust, Maerewhenua Trust and our members for their continued support, and acknowledge the volunteer mahi of FMC's Executive Committee and supporters in protecting our wild places and an outdoor life worth living.



Foster the skills and knowledge of our outdoor recreation community, particularly among young people



Protect and enhance access to public lands



Ensure the wise management of publicly managed lands



Strengthen the recreational, conservation and environmental integrity of public conservation lands



Support, grow and celebrate our membership



Work with our wider community, including tangata whenua and with all levels of government