



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*



Department of  
**Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

## Media release

**Date: 30 August 2016**

### Double Boost for Environmental Education

Minister for the Environment, Hon. Dr Nick Smith, has today announced a further six years' funding for the Toimata Foundation charitable trust, totaling almost \$11.5 million.

“This funding will ensure growth of the Enviroschools and Te Aho Tū Roa programmes in early childhood centres, schools and kura. It will also strengthen engagement of the science community in schools in practical action learning, which links to the National Science Challenges and supports A Nation of Curious Minds” says Dr Smith.

Over 100,000 children and young people, 9000 teachers and school staff and 85 partner organisations already actively participate in Toimata programmes. These programmes are designed to empower young people while creating healthier environments and more collaborative communities.

For every dollar of government funding, Toimata is able to leverage \$8.90 from other sources.

The Government has simultaneously released a refreshed National Strategy for Environmental Education, for public feedback.

The Ministers of Conservation, Education and Environment say the draft Environmental Education for Sustainability Strategy takes a more collaborative approach than previously, with relevance to businesses, councils, NGOs and community groups as well as schools.

“Ways of learning, communicating and collaborating have changed dramatically since the original Strategy was released in 1998,” said Associate Minister of Conservation Hon Nicky Wagner.

“I am very pleased with this draft and believe it provides a next step to enhance engagement in Environmental Education for Sustainability. It will provide a pathway forward for everyone who supports this work” Minister Wagner added.

“The strategy encourages collaboration between a wide range of stakeholders in our environment and supports projects and initiatives to advance social, environmental and economic sustainability in New Zealand.”

The refreshed National Strategy and feedback process are available at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/eefs>

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**Background information**

National Strategy for Environmental Education for Sustainability (EEfS).

In 1998, the Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Education released *Learning to Care for Our Environment: Me Ako ki te Tiaki Taiao* – A national strategy for environmental education.

Since then, there has been a re-focus on the interconnectedness of environmental, societal and economic systems. The relationships and issues between these systems are complex. The ways in which we learn, communicate and take action for our environment have also changed.

The time is right for a significant refresh of our national strategy to include Environmental Education for Sustainability (EEfS). The objective is to ensure the strategy and its implementation are relevant for New Zealand communities for 2016-2026.

The steering group advising this refresh of a national strategy for EEfS includes representatives from the Department of Conservation, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Education, Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, local government and researchers in EEfS working with schools, kura, iwi and communities.

The Department of Conservation, as convenor of the steering group, encourages stakeholders to share their views on the proposed vision, role of EEfS, priority areas and actions recommended in the draft refreshed Strategy.