



# Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1

## B+LNZ Farmer Workshops

Corina Jordan & Matt Harcombe  
Beef + Lamb NZ



A confident and profitable sheep and beef industry

FOR THE SECTOR  
VISION

Help farmers make informed business decisions and promote their collective interests

PURPOSE OF B+LNZ

## PRIORITIES

### Supporting informed business decisions

- + **Investing** in Research and Development that meets the needs of farmers and the sector
- + **Developing** farm and farmer capability
- + **Delivering** knowledge that drives farm performance

### Promoting collective interests

- + **Attract and retain** talent for the sector
- + **Supporting** the sector's market opportunities
- + **Advocating** for farmers ability to operate
- + **Building** our sector's confidence and profile within communities

Know our farmers

Build partnerships to deliver

By farmers. For farmers

PRINCIPLES



STRATEGY

# AGENDA



<b>Welcome</b>	<b>5 mins</b>
Introducing the requirements of Regional Plans	5 mins
Overview of issues: Proposed Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan	20 mins
Q and A	20 mins
<b>BREAK</b>	15 mins
Design Session (I like/ I wish/ I wonder)	20 mins
Tips for writing a powerful submission	10 mins
Feedback from Design Session (Summary of key points)	20 mins
Close	5 mins



# Waikato Region Process of Plan Development



- Waikato Regional Council is proposing changes to its operative Regional Land and Water Plan
- Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1 has been developed through a Collaborative Stakeholders Group (CSG) representing a range of interests and values in freshwater
- Plan Change 1 aims to give effect to the NPSFWM and works towards meeting the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River / Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato which is the primary direction setting document for the Waikato River
- Opportunity for farmers to provide feedback to the council on the plan until 5pm 8 March 2017

# Why is the council doing this



## **The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)**

The Act requires that local councils recognise the natural resource issues facing a region, ensure that natural resources are sustainably managed in an integrative manner, and that any adverse effect of an activity on the environment is avoided, remedied, or mitigated.

## **National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management**

Under the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management (NPSFWM) 2014, Regional Councils are required to set water quality and quantity limits & ensure that where limits are exceeded over allocation is phased out overtime (regulatory and non regulatory methods)

The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River is recognised in statute and is intended to be the primary direction setting document for the Waikato River

- recognizes that freshwater and its cultural recreational and ecological values in the catchments are degraded and require restoration and protection; and
- in particular requires *“The restoration of water quality within the Waikato River so that it is safe for people to swim in and take food from over its entire length”*;
- This objective establishes one of the primary drivers for the Healthy Rivers Plan

# Waikato Regional Council Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan



## KEY ISSUES FOR FARMERS

- Achievement of the 80 year aspirations could require conversion from farming to forestry
- Restrictions on Land Use Change
- Nitrogen management adopts a 'grandparenting' approach
- Reducing contaminant losses from farms
- Stock exclusion from waterbodies
- Farm Management Plans







## Conversion from farming to forestry could be required to achieve long term aspirations

- The Plan establishes an 80 year timeframe to achieve its water quality objectives;
- recognises that achieving these outcomes will be costly and will likely require substantial changes in Land use;
- land to be converted from agriculture back into forestry;
- changes will be intergenerational

# RESTRICTIONS TO LAND USE CHANGE



- Any change in land use is a non-complying activity;
- Rule has Immediate effect;
- This means a resource consent will be required and it will be difficult to get approval from the Council;
- For example land use change from forestry to pastoral or pastoral to horticulture;
- Provision has been made for some flexibility of Maori owned land that has not yet been able to be developed.

## Nitrogen Leaching Grandparented at Historic Levels

- Property scale Nitrogen Reference point to be established for most S+B farms;
- Restricts Nitrogen losses from the farm as modelled through OVERSEER to the losses from that property for the 2014/15 or 2015/16 years;
- Farms with the highest 25% of Nitrogen loss will be required to reduce their Nitrogen leaching;
- Limited ability if any to increase leaching beyond historic rates.



# STOCK EXCLUSION FROM WATERBODIES



- Cattle, horses, deer and pigs will need to be excluded from all permanently flowing rivers, streams, drains, wetlands, and lakes;
- Exclusion through fencing or natural barrier including vegetation;
- Stock are only permitted to cross a waterbody when a livestock crossing structure is used
- Priority action, within 3 years of developing a Farm Environment Plan; and
- No later than 1 July 2026;
- Flexibility for land <math><25^\circ</math> slope

# FARM ENVIRONMENT PLANS



- Most sheep and beef farmers are required to have a Farm Environment Plan by;
  - Priority 1 sub catchment by 1 July 2020
  - Priority 2 sub catchment by 1 July 2023
  - Priority 3 sub catchment by 1 July 2026
- Operate in accordance with that plan;
- Either through a resource consent or through an certified industry scheme

# FARM ENVIRONMENT PLANS



- Identification of critical source areas/ sensitive habitats such as wetlands, rivers;
- Identify and implement management practices which reduce sediment, phosphorus, nitrogen, & pathogen losses;
- Compliance with stock exclusion requirements
- Setbacks for new fences (1m – 3m)
- Setbacks for cultivation (5m)
- Consider avoidance of cultivation on land  $>15^\circ$  slope



# Q & A



# Design Session: Your Turn

## I like/ I wish/ I wonder



- Applying what you have heard about to your farm and using the post-it notes
- Use one post-it per idea
  - I like
  - I wish
  - I wonder
- Now discuss your ideas with your neighbours.

# Results from the Design Session: I like/ I wish/ I wonder



I Like	I Wish	I wonder



# SCHEDULE 1 STATUTORY PROCESS



- Plan Change 1 notified by WRC 22 October 2016
- Submissions close on PC1 8 March 2017
- Period for further submissions
- Mediation/ conferencing?
- Local hearing (mid to late 2017)
- Opportunity to appeal decision to the Environment Court
- Mediation/ Expert Conferencing
- Environment Court (~mid to late 2018 if appealed)
- Opportunity to appeal decision to the High Court on points of law only



# Tips for writing a powerful submission



## **Set the scene by telling your story**

Write a short introduction to briefly tell Council about you, your family, and your farm

## **Tell Council what parts of the Plan you like and dislike**

Identify which parts of the Plan you like (support), don't like (oppose). You can do this for as many or as few parts of the Plan as you want.

## **Tell Council how the Plan will affect you**

For each part of the Plan you've identified – give a brief summary of why you 'oppose' or 'support' the provision

## **Tell the Council what changes you would like them to make**

Briefly tell the council what 'relief it is you are seeking' ie explain how you would like the proposal changed

# Submission Template



The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that	Why/ reason	Relief Sought
<p>Rule number and name (e.g. Rule 70 - Stock exclusion)</p>	<p>I support/ oppose</p>	<p><b>The reasons why I think this are:</b></p> <p>Talk about how the proposal will affect you/ your family/ your farm.</p> <p>Stick to the facts; focus on the environmental effects; be specific and provide examples.</p>	<p><b>The decision I would like Council to make is:</b></p> <p>Clearly explain your recommended alternative and explain how you would like the proposal changed.</p> <p>Tell the council what you want – don't leave them to guess; and write in clear, simple, everyday language.</p>

*I like  
Or don't like*

*I wish*

*I wonder*

# Tips for writing a powerful submission



- A clear and well written submission is more effective than an unstructured and emotional one.
- Facts supported by evidence, not emotion, is what the council will use when making decisions.
- Be specific and use examples where you can, but be brief, do not write an essay;
- The hearing is the time to expand on what you want to say

# Tips for writing a powerful submission



- Write in clear simple everyday language.
- If you use abbreviations or acronyms' then always explain what they are to start with.
- Include maps or diagrams if appropriate but the best way of doing this is using photos at the hearing – use them to demonstrate specific examples of why the plan is good or doesn't work for your farm



# YOUR FARM – YOUR FUTURE YOUR SUBMISSION



## YOU NEED TO TELL YOUR STORY – ITS AS EASY AS ONE PAGE OF BULLET POINTS

- Think about how each of the key issues we talked about might impact on your farm
- Talk to your neighbours or get a small group together within your sub catchment
- Use the template to make it easy for you
- Use your time now to make some notes under each of the headings or to ask us questions

# FUTHER INFORMATION



## To find out more visit

<http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Council/Policyand-plans/Plans-underdevelopment/Healthy-Rivers---Plan-for-Change/>

## To read the full proposed plan

<http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Council/Policy-and-plans/Plans-underdevelopment/Healthy-Rivers---PlanforChange/Read-the-proposed-plan-change/>

## Email your feedback to the Regional Council

<http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Council/Policy-and-plans/Plans-underdevelopment/Healthy-Rivers---Plan-for-Change/Plan-change-1-have-your-say/>

## Visit the Beef + Lamb NZ website for Summary Briefs, upcoming events, and submission template

<http://beeflambnz.com/local/mid-northern-north-island>

**Plan Change 1 is open for feedback until 5pm, 8 March Sept 2017.**

# Beef + Lamb Contacts



Andrew Jolly

Mid Northern North Island Extension Manager

[andrew.jolly@beeflambnz.com](mailto:andrew.jolly@beeflambnz.com)

Matt Harcombe

Environment Programme Manager

[matt.harcombe@beeflambnz.com](mailto:matt.harcombe@beeflambnz.com)

Corina Jordan

North Island Policy Manager

[corina.jordan@beeflambnz.com](mailto:corina.jordan@beeflambnz.com)

