FARMER PROPOSALS (REMITS) GUIDELINES

October 2026

BACKGROUND

A farmer proposal (remit) is a statement submitted to the Board for consideration which seeks changes to policy or is a matter of major interest or concern for sheep and beef producers.

To ensure success and achieve the desired purpose, a remit must be well researched, evidence based and well written.

WRITING A REMIT

Any remit submitted must be supported with sound fact and logic.

Steps to take:

1. Approach B+LNZ to ascertain if the remit topic is being actioned or under review, or if similar or contradictory remits are also being proposed.
2. Find out whether other groups or organisations are already addressing this remit topic and whether B+LNZ needs to also undertake this activity.
3. Determine why what's being proposed is a B+LNZ role.

Components to ensure a remit may be considered for approval are as follows:

1. A short proposition statement for farmers to vote for or against (no more than 25 words – the simpler the proposition statement, the better the chances of your remit succeeding). Each remit must be for one issue only.
2. The rationale, including evidence and detailing sources where applicable. This should be limited to 275 words.
3. The objectives of the remit must be achievable and measurable.
4. The issue's relationship, if any, to B+LNZ's Levy Order, Constitution or Strategic Plan.
5. Consideration of any financial implications for B+LNZ.
6. Information on how the remit could practically be actioned without delay, including what B+LNZ will do, and what the submitters will do, if the remit is passed.

7. Cross-check and verify all the facts and word the remit carefully (using Plain English and keeping it brief).
8. Ask one or two independent people to proofread it for clarity and lack of ambiguity.

THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER REMITS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

1. Remits are relevant to B+LNZ as a whole.
2. Remits should be of a major policy nature (constitutional and substantive policy).
3. Remits defeated at the annual or special meeting in two successive meetings will not be accepted for future meetings for three years thereafter.
4. Remits will be assessed to determine whether the matters raised can be actioned by alternative, and equally valid, means to achieve the desired outcome.
5. Remits that deal with issues or matters currently being actioned may also be declined on the grounds that the matters raised are ‘in-hand’.
6. Remits that are vexatious and/or frivolous will not be accepted.
7. Where contradictory remits are received direction will be given to farmers that a vote for one must mean a vote against the other. This will ensure that B+LNZ has a clear outcome following the voting process.

REMIT PROCESS

B+LNZ will take the following steps to finalise remits for the annual or special meeting:

1. Timeline dates for the annual meeting remit process will be advertised in conjunction with director nominations in November each year.
2. All proposed remits and accompanying information must be forwarded to the registered office in Wellington by the advertised date (exact time will be clearly stated in meeting notices to members).
3. A remit calling for a special meeting of farmers can be called at any time.
4. A Remit Committee appointed by the B+LNZ Board may review and assess proposed remits against the criteria described in the above policy.
5. Prior to their assessment meeting, the Remit Committee (if appointed by the Board) or the Board will receive analysis from B+LNZ management on each remit, assessing each remit against the criteria outlined in the above policy.
6. Proposers of remits that fail to meet the tests imposed by the above guidelines will be informed as soon as practicable of the Board’s decision, actions available and the reasons behind the decision.
7. Proposers of remits accepted will be contacted as soon as practicable to arrange the logistics of presenting the remit to the annual meeting either online or in person.

8. All accepted remits will be included in annual or special meeting material distributed to farmers for voting at least 20 working days prior to the meeting date.
9. All remits will be voted on by farmers either in person at the annual meeting or in advance of the meeting by post or digitally. B+LNZ wishes to ensure all farmer voices are heard and having postal and digital voting ensures the best possible chance rather than relying on in-person attendance.

To ensure quality preparation for farmers' consideration at the annual or special meeting the Board will not consider or take forward proposed remits that do not meet these guidelines or are received after the specified timeframe requirements.