

# Northland Proposed Regional & Catchment Plan Farmer Workshop

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# Northland Regional Council Proposed Regional Plan

INTRODUCTION

- The Northland Regional Council has notified its proposed Regional Plan.
- This plan includes new rules around how land, freshwater, air, biodiversity, and the coastal environment are to be managed.
- As such it is important for farmers to understand these changes and take the opportunity to write submissions to the council on the Plan.
- Submission must be received by the Northland Regional Council by no later than 4pm on the 15 November 2017



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)

# DRAFT NORTHLAND REGIONAL & CATCHMENT PLANS



# **KEY CHANGES**

- Stock exclusion from waterbodies
- Cultivation
- Earthworks
- Vegetation Clearance
- Water abstraction
- Catchment specific rules

# MAPS – TARGETED MANAGEMENT



Map layer	Description
Outstanding freshwater bodies: <i>Rivers</i> <i>Lakes</i>	Outstanding freshwater bodies are lakes and rivers that have outstanding values as defined in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014. The following rivers and section of rivers were identified as having outstanding natural values in the Regional Water and Soil Plan for Northland 2004 and have been identified as outstanding rivers in this plan: Waipoua; Waipoua; Wairau; Whirinaki; Waipapa; and Mangamuka. The following lakes were identified as having outstanding natural values by Champion and de Winton (2012): <sup>(3)</sup>

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# MAPS – TARGETED MANAGEMENT



#### Highly erodible land

Map layer	Description
Highly erodible land	Land defined as land use capability units VIe17, VIe19, VIIe1 - VIIe10, VIIIe1 - VIIe3, and VIIIs1. The land use capability units are generally depicted on the 1:50,000 New Zealand Resource Inventory, Northland Region, Second Edition.

High sediment yielding land	Areas of land predicted to have high sediment yield (high sediment yielding land) in the Doubtless Bay, Waitangi, Mangere and Whangarei Harbour catchments which are subject to a rule requiring Erosion Control Plans be developed by 1 January 2015. The thresholds for high sediment yielding land are 250 tonnes / km <sup>2</sup> / year or more in the Waitangi, Whangarei Harbour and Mangere catchments and 500 tonnes / km <sup>2</sup> / year or more in the Doubtless Pay catchment.
	in the Doubtless Bay catchment. See section E 'Catchments'.

# STOCK ACCESS TO WATERBODIES



C.8 Land Use and disturbance activities: C.8.1.1

Currently there are no regional rules requiring stock be excluded from rivers and lakes.

The proposed Regional Plan introduces new stock exclusion rules:

### Dairy support, beef and deer -

- Permitted activity in Hill Country (>15 degrees slope- Map I)
- Lowland permanently flowing rivers and drains greater than 1m wide and 30cm deep by January 1 2025
- Lowland all permanently flowing rivers and drains by January 1 2030
- Excluded from natural wetlands and lakes from the date the Regional Plan becomes operative

### STOCK ACCESS TO WATERBODIES



C.8 Land Use and disturbance activities: C.8.1.1

Livestock type	Permanently flowing rivers, streams and drains greater than 1m wide and 30cm deep*	All permanently flowing rivers, streams and drains	Natural wetlands (excluding significant wetlands)	Lakes (>1ha) and significant wetlands
Pigs and dairy cows	Excluded from the date this rule becomes operative	Excluded from 1 January 2023	Excluded from 1 January 2023	Excluded from the date this rule becomes operative
Beef cattle, dairy support cattle and deer	Lowland areas as mapped in I 'Maps': Excluded from 1 January 2025 Hill country areas as mapped in I 'Maps': No exclusion required	Lowland areas as mapped in I 'Maps': Excluded from 1 January 2030 Hill country areas as mapped in I 'Maps': No exclusion required	Lowland areas as mapped in I 'Maps': Excluded from 1 January 2025 Hill country areas as mapped in I 'Maps': No exclusion required	Excluded from the date this rule becomes operative

# CULTIVATION





Cultivation of land is a permitted activity provided the following conditions are adhered to:

- Not undertaken on highly erodible land
- 5m from a natural wetland, or
- 5m from the bed of a permanently or intermittently flowing river, or an ephemeral watercourse, or
- Not undertaken in a catchment with an outstanding lake, or
- the coastal riparian management zone, and



C.8 Land Use and disturbance activities: C.8.3.1



It is proposed to move to area based thresholds per activity

Generally 5000m<sup>2</sup> is permitted

More stringent standards are applied in sensitive areas such as highly erodible land and within riparian margins. These setbacks apply to both permanently and intermittently flowing rivers:

- Within 10m of a natural wetland, bed of a river or lake;
- Highly erodible land
- Catchment of an outstanding lake
- Coastal hazard management area

Tracking is excluded from the requirements

# **VEGETATION CLEARANCE**

C.8 Land use and disturbance activities: C.8.4.1 & C.8.4.2



Vegetation clearance is a permitted activity, however restrictions apply in areas considered sensitive such as near a wetland, lake, or river.

Coastal hazard management area (C.8.4.1) - Excluding coastal dune restoration, clearance must not exceed 200<sup>2</sup>m in any 12 month period

Clearance of native woody vegetation (C.8.4.2)

- Within 10m of a natural wetland, river, or lake only 200<sup>2</sup>m
- 5ha on highly erodible land if replanted within 6mths
- 5000<sup>2</sup>m on highly erodible land if not replanted

Plantation forestry harvesting is permitted if submit harvest plan (in accordance with National Forestry Guidelines)

### WATER ABSTRACTION C.5 Taking, using, damming and diversion of water: C.5.1



Minor takes including for stock drinking are permitted (rule C.5.1.1):

- Must not exceed core allocation or minimum flow limit
- Must not exceed 1m<sup>3</sup> costal aquifer; or
- $10m^3$  or 200L/ha up to a max of  $20m^3$

Takes less than 50m<sup>3</sup> existing at notification but not authorized are controlled (rule C.5.1.7) or exceeding 50m<sup>3</sup> discretionary (C.5.1.9, and C.5.1.10)

If allocation available – new water take activity is discretionary activity.

If allocation not available – new water take activity is noncomplying.

# NON REGULATORY METHODS



- Farm water quality improvement plans
- Establish and maintain sub-catchment water user groups for highly allocated catchments
- Encourage and assist landowners with riparian restoration
- Encourage and assist landowners to restore and create wetland habitats (Northland Regional Council's Environment Fund)
- Farmers are encouraged to uptake voluntary initiatives including funding opportunities for environmental work

#### Local solutions for local water issues

beef

Waiora Northland Water was an initiative by the Northland Regional Council to develop catchment specific approaches for managing land and water resources.

Catchment groups include community representatives and tangata whenua have met regularly since mid-2013.

The groups were tasked with making recommendations for the best way to manage water in each specific catchment

Find out more about the specific catchment groups and processes at <u>www.nrc.govt.nz/catchmentgroups</u>

# CATCHMENT SPECIFIC CHAPTERS Targeted Plans



### Local solutions for local issues

Catchment Plans aim to identify community held values for the catchment and its waterbodies and to reflect community solutions to problems that are impacting on these values.

- Whangarei Harbour
- Doubtless Bay
- Waitangi
- Mangere
- Pouto



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# 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
Rule number and name (e.g. Rule 70 - Słock exclusion)	I support/ oppose	I like that: • X • X I don't like that: • X • X The reasons why I think this are:	The decision I would like Council to make is: Clearly explain your recommended alternative

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# 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

Submission must be received by the Northland Regional Council by no later than 4pm on the 15 November 2017

# FURTHER INFORMATION



### To find out more visit

https://www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Council-Projects/New-Regional-Plan/

### To read the full proposed plan

https://www.nrc.govt.nz/contentassets/506f48db06744ab782c65e56a cd19dde/proposed-regional-plan-september-2017-final-7-sept-2017.pdf

### To submit on the proposed Regional Plan

- Submissions online <u>http://consult-nrc.objective.com/portal/planning\_and\_policy/proposed\_regional\_plan/prp</u> or
- Emailed to <u>submissions@nrc.govt.nz</u> or
- Posted to PRP Submissions, Northland Regional Council, Private Bag 9021, Whangarei Mail Center, Whangarei 0148.

## **BEEF + LAMB CONTACTS**



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### **Doubtless Bay Catchment**

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# Doubtless Bay Stock Exclusion



Stock exclusion regulation has some tighter timeframes than the draft Regional Plan - applies to all permanently flowing rivers and drains

Pigs and dairy cows - Excluded from rivers in both the hill country and lowland water quality management unit from the date the Regional Plan becomes operative

Beef cattle, dairy support cattle and deer - in the lowland river water quality management unit from 1 January 2025. No exclusion applied in the Hill country management unit.

### Non regulatory:

• Encourage stock exclusion where not required by a rule (this would be in hill country areas and of intermittently flowing streams, or by an earlier date).

# Doubtless Bay Catchment Erosion Management



### Pastoral Hillslope Erosion Management

- Erosion control plans for critical source areas to be compulsory after 2025
- Pastoral land use in highly erodible land will be a controlled activity after 2025 where a erosion control plan has not been developed.

### Non regulatory:

- 50-100% subsidy for poplars/willows associated with erosion control plan implementation (case-by-case basis).
- Encourage erosion control plans on other areas of land subject to erosion.

# Doubtless Bay Catchment Water Abstraction



Lake Waiporohita is identified as an 'outstanding lake' due to its biodiversity

Require all water takes from Lake Waiporohita to obtain a resource consent as 'discretionary activity'

- Water must not be taken below minimum flow
- Any new take does not cause the allocation limit to be exceeded

Entire Doubtless Bay catchment considered as a coastal FMU so more stringent water take provisions apply

- Minimum flow 80% MALF (7 day)
- Allocation limit 30% MALF (7 day)

However, this is unlikely to affect users as currently the total volume of water extracted (by resource consent or permitted activity rules) in the Doubtless Bay catchment is low at around 10% of MALF.

### Waitangi Catchment





# Waitangi Catchment Stock Exclusion



Stock exclusion regulation has some tighter timeframes than the draft Regional Plan - applies to all permanently flowing rivers and drains

Pigs and dairy cows - Excluded from rivers in both the hill country and lowland water quality management unit from the date the Regional Plan becomes operative

Beef cattle, dairy support cattle and deer - in the lowland river water quality management unit from 1 January 2025. No exclusion applied in the Hill country management unit.

#### Non regulatory:

• Encourage stock exclusion where not required by a rule (this would be in hill country areas and of intermittently flowing streams, or by an earlier date).

# Waitangi Catchment Erosion Management



#### Pastoral Hillslope Erosion Management

- Erosion control plans for critical source areas to be compulsory after 2025
- Pastoral land use in highly erodible land will be a controlled activity after 2025 where a erosion control plan has not been developed.
  - Effectiveness of measures to control or mitigate sediment from gullies landslide and earthflow erosion; and
  - The location, timing, and prioritisation of measures to control or mitigate sedment losses

#### Non regulatory:

- 50-100% subsidy for poplars/willows associated with erosion control plan implementation (case-by-case basis).
- Encourage erosion control plans on other areas of land subject to erosion.

### **Whangarei Harbour Catchment**





# Whangarei Catchment



Tighter stock exclusion rules apply upstream of popular swimming sites on the Hatea and Raumanga Rivers:

 dairy cows, pigs, beef cattle, dairy support cattle and deer are excluded within two years after the Regional Plan becomes operative from all river types upstream of the swimming sites mapped on the Hātea and Raumanga.

Elsewhere stock exclusion as DNRP

Erosion control plans become compulsory for pastoral use in areas of highly erodible land by 2025. Voluntary up until then.

## **Mangere Catchment**

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# Mangere Catchment Stock Exclusion



#### Stock exclusion regulation applies to:

- All permanently flowing rivers and drains in the **Hill Country** river water quality management unit as well as the draft regional rule requirements
- Beef cattle, dairy support cattle and deer Excluded from 1 January 2025
- Defaults to consent requirement where this is not met

#### Non regulatory:

- Encourage stock exclusion where not required by a rule (this would be intermittently flowing streams or by an earlier date).
- Encourage water quality improvement / erosion control plans where not required by a rule.
- Encourage 1 2m setbacks from stock excluded waterbodies
- Regional council to work with the community to create riparian forests along the Mangere River, Mangere Stream and Patuwairua Stream.

# Mangere Catchment Erosion Management



### Pastoral Hillslope Erosion Management

- Erosion control plans for critical source areas to be compulsory after 2025
- Pastoral land use in highly erodible land will be a controlled activity after 2025 where a erosion control plan has not been developed.

### Non regulatory:

- 50-100% subsidy for poplars/willows associated with erosion control plan implementation (case-by-case basis).
- Encourage erosion control plans on other areas of land subject to erosion.

### **Pouto Catchment**





# Pouto Catchment Outstanding Waterbodies



Identify the Lake/wetland complex at the dune field edge of south-west of Lake Mokeno as an 'Outstanding waterbody'

New Planation forestry that exceeds 5ha in catchments of outstanding dune lakes is a 'restricted discretionary activity'.

Matters of discretion include:

- The total area and location to be planted;
- Potential effects of reduced surface water yield to lakes and water levels in lakes;
- The sensitivity of the ecological, cultural or recreational values of the lake to reduced water levels.

# Pouto Catchment Water Abstraction



More permissive approach to water takes from dune lakes than the proposed regional rules

Pouto catchment specific rules - Other permitted takes provides for the take and use of water from a lake (other than stock drinking or domestic needs)

- Only one take per property
- Take is from a lake which is >2ha in area
- Take does not lower the water level in a natural wetland
- The reticulation system is constructed and maintained to minimise leakage and wastage;
- Take does not exceed:
  - Outstanding lakes: 30m<sup>3</sup> from a deep outstanding lake and 10m<sup>3</sup> from a shallow outstanding lake.
  - Other lakes: 50m<sup>3</sup> from deep lakes and 20m<sup>3</sup> from shallow lakes.



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