**Farmer Submission Template:Hawkes Bay Regional Council Plan Change 9 – TANK Plan.**

Beef + Lamb New Zealand will be making a submission on behalf of the sheep and beef sector on Hawkes Bay Regional Council’s Proposed Plan Change 9 (TANK).

Many farmers want to also make their own submission to the Government. This template is designed to help those sheep and beef farmers wishing to make their own submission.

Steps for writing your own submission:

1. Review the Proposed Plan Change 9 (TANK) document here:

https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/TANK/TANK-Key-Reports/Proposed-TANK-Plan-Change-9.pdf

1. Populate this submission template.
	1. Review the suggested feedback. *Delete any comments that you disagree with.*
	2. Remember to personalise your submission by using the prompts in the text box below to help you.
2. Head to https://www.consultations.nz/hbrc/the-proposed-tank-plan/ to complete your submission.

***Why personalise your submission?***

Including your personal story and talking about how the proposal could impact you is really important. It leaves a lasting impression with policy makers, and helps the Council to understand how its proposal will affect people.

***How did B+LNZ develop the suggested comments for farmers to use?***

The comments for you to cut and paste were developed by B+LNZ using:

* Farmer feedback, collected from 12 nationwide workshops run by B+LNZ over the past month;
* Advice from consultation with policy and planning experts;
* Engagement with approx. 100 local farmers specifically on TANK through workshops held in Patoka, Puketapu and Maraekakaho.

**HAWKES BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 9 (TANK)**

Submission on Hawkes Bay Regional Councils publicly notified proposed Plan Change 9 (TANK).

**On:** Hawkes Bay Regional Council – proposed Plan Change 9 (TANK).

**To: Hawkes Bay Regional Council**

**Personal Information**

*\* indicates required fields*

Company name:

Given names\*:

Surname:

Contact person:

Address:

Region\*:

Country:

Phone:

Email\*:

**Submission**

* Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Plan Change 9 (TANK).

**Background about my farm**

*(Keep this section brief. It is not required for your submission, but does help set the scene)*

*Where you are farming (catchment) and what type of country you are farming (flat, rolling, hill);*

*Has your family been farming your land for multiple generations? If so, how many?*

*What type of farm; stock class and ratio and whether or not this changes overtime.*

*Property under development – future aspirations and motivations?*

*Describe your environmental management? Are you actively planting riparian strips or allowing native regeneration, have you already excluded stock from waterways and if so, what was the cost of doing so?*

**Why am I making this submission?**

*(Keep this section brief. It is not required for your submission, but does help set the scene)*

*Your values and aspirations for your area, community, catchment and family as they relate to freshwater ecological health.*

*Why this is important to you in the big picture, the contribution you make to your natural environment and economic environment (employer, using local contractors etc.)*

**Section A: General responses to the proposals:**

*Review the following comments. Delete any comments that you disagree with. It is not essential to personalise every aspect of your submission, however prompts have been included in a text box at the end of each section for you to consider and to get you thinking about how PC9 may impact your farm.*

* I support the purpose of Plan Change 9 to give effect to the Hawkes Bay Regional Council Policy Statement as well as the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. I recognise that this requires Council to identify values, and establish methods, including limits, to ensure those objectives are met.
* I support provisions (Obj TANK 1 & 2) which recognise that successful environment outcomes for freshwater ecological health require landowner and community support and leadership. I ask for these to be retained as proposed, and for policies to be amended or included to enable catchment collective approaches to management as a priority. Provisions need to recognise that people are critical to maintaining and enhancing freshwater ecological health and acknowledge the importance of respecting and fostering the contribution of landowners as custodians and Kaitiaki to these catchments.
* I support provisions (policies 5.10.3 Industry Programmes & Catchment Mangement) which recognise farmers and communities contributions to achieving environmental outcomes and give landowners the opportunity to continue to grow and develop ‘ground up’ approaches both indiviudlaly or collectively. I ask for these to be retained as proposed.
* I am deeply concerned that stock water is not appropriately provided for (Obj TANK 16, 17, and 18, associated policies 5.10.7, and rules). The continuous provision of water is critical to animal welfare and should be a priority take above other non-essential takes. I oppose provisions which relate to water takes and management and which fail to provide for stock drinking water as a priority take.
* I am deeply concerned about the nitrogen leaching limits set in Schedule 29 which place an upper limit to how much nitrogen can be leached specific to a productive land use. I oppose provisions which restrict innovation and remove the opportunity for landowners to achieve environmental outcomes while remaining adaptable to change in circumstances. I consider sector averaging to be effectively the ‘grandparenting ‘ of land which locks farmers in at their existing farm systems and land uses, preventing the ability to adjust stocking rates, inputs or change land use. Flexibility and the ability to adapt and innovate is an integral part of the resilience of the sector.
* I support with amendments objectives to increase riparian planting and wetlands (policies 5.10.2). I seek that these provisions are implemented through non regulatory methods and not regulation. I seek more information is provided as to how Council intends to facilitate meeting the targets specified i.e. funding assistance and support.
* I oppose provisions which are ambiguous and where the implications for my farm or community are not clear (Rule TANK 3, TANK 7). I seek that these are deleted, or alternatively amended to provide clarity and ensure that they can be implemented on farm in a practicable way. In particular, I seek clarity about what waterways will need to be excluded from stock access.
* The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks are as detailed in the table in Section B below.
* *Think about in a general way what are the overarching aspects of the Plan Change 9 that you either agree with or disagree with eg access of stock to drinking water, farm environment planning, catchment community initiatives, stock exclusion from waterbodies, water for abstraction.*

**Section B: Specific responses to the proposals:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Specific Provision in the Proposed Plan** | **Submission** | **Decision sought**  |
| ***The specific provisions my submission relates to are:*** | ***My submission is that:***  | ***The decision I would like Hawkes Bay Regional Council to make is:***  |
| *Review the following comments. Delete any comments that you disagree with. Remember to personalise your submission by using the prompts in the grey box below to help you.* |
| **TANK 1**(The use of productive land greater than 10ha.)Associated Objectives and Policies.  | * I support with amendments.
* I support that farmers are provided a Permitted Activity pathway and are able to continue to farm without requiring a Resource Consent in recognition that location solutions and innovative and flexible responses are effective in managing water quality outcomes.
* I support provisions which recognise and empower ground up, landowner and community led conservation actions, and which prioritise non-regulatory over regulation management frameworks.
* I support provisions which incentivise farmers (by means of a permitted activity pathway) to develop a Farm Plan or be part of a Catchment Collective.
* I support the recognition that people and communities are critical to achieving good environmental outcomes.
 | * I seek that the requirement for the Farm Environment Plan be prepared by a person with the professional qualifications necessary to prepare such a plan (Schedule 30, Section C, 1.1(a)) be removed and propose that farmers are able to prepare their own Farm Environment Plan.
* Farmers should be involved in the preparation of their own Farm Plan and ‘own’ the document. By being involved in the preparation, the implementation of them is more likely to be successful.
* Farms Plans prepared by professionals with little appreciation of the day to day operation of the Farm are less likely to be affective.
 |
| *Use these prompts to help you personalise your submission** *Write about your connection to your farm and what you’re already doing to manage and protect against environment risk. Examples include protecting native bush, pest control, fencing and planting. Why do you do these things?*
* *Think about what things your community does already, and why the Council recognising a collaborative approach to environment management validates your efforts and empowers your community to continue working together.*
* *Think about your farm as a whole, what do you do to deliver economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits?*
* *These points will highlight what farmers and communities already do and why a permitted activity pathway for farming is a good idea.*
* *What support from Council would encourage/enable you to undertake more of these types of ‘custodianship’ actions?*
* *Consider how a permitted activity pathway empowers you to be in control of your farm and contribute positively to your community.*
* *If you already have some form of Farm Plan, talk about it and why it works well.*
 |
| **Schedule 29: Land Use Change**Associated Objectives and Policies.  | * I oppose this provision.

 * Management frameworks should be equitable across land uses and focussed on environmental outcomes/ effects.
* I oppose land use specific Nitrogen Loss restrictions. Famers should be able to remain flexible and adaptive to change in circumstances.
* Allocating nutrients in such a way that unnecessarily limits land use change contrains the ability of land users to respond to those changes and optimially utilise the land resource.
* Including land use specific Nitrogen restrictions places unfair advantage on some land uses over others, and limits farmers ability to adapt to change in circumstances.
 | * I seek that Table 1 in Schedule 29 is deleted and propose that a ‘flat rate per hectare’ permitted threshold is applied (e.g. 20kgN/ha/yr) irrespective of land use and land use change.
* Any Nitrogen risk threshold should be tailored to the catchment and specific to working towards achieving freshwater values.
* This approach will ensure that those land uses which contribute unsustainable amounts bear the cost of reducing the overallocation while those discharging at or below the sustainable level (<20kgN/ha) are enabled to continue and are flexible to adapt to change in circumstances.
 |
| *Use these prompts to help you personalise your submission** *Think about what circusmtances affect nitrogen loss on your farm. Talk about your experiences and why you need flexibility in to be able to respond to changing circumstances.*
 |
| **TANK 2** The use of productive land greater than 10ha. Associated Objectives and Policies.  | * I support this Rule.
* I support the controlled activity status given to use of productive land that does not meet TANK 1 (is operated without a farm environment plan or part of a catchment collective). This gives landowners options where they do not favour a FEP or working collectively. This provides Council the ability to impose conditions bespoke to the farm in its catchment context but also gives certainty to farmers that their consent will be granted.
 | * I seek that TANK 2 is retained as proposed.
 |
| *Use these prompts to help you personalise your submission** *Consider your understanding of activity status’s; acknowlegde your understanding that a Resource Consent for a controlled activity must be granted and is likely to be a shorter, less costly Resource Consent. Consider how this certainty contributes to your willingness to engage in the consenting process.*
 |
| **TANK 3**Stock Access to rivers, lakes and wetlands. Associated Objectives and Policies.  | * Support with amendments.
* I support requirements to avoid adverse effects on waterways caused by stock but need the rule to be amendended to provide clarity and be practicable when implemented.

  | * I seek that the word ‘bed’ in TANK 3 & 4 is defined and that the definition used by Horizons Council is adopted being *‘Active bed means the bed of a river that is intermittently flowing and where the bed is predominantly unvegetated and comprises sand, gravel, boulders or similar material’.*
* I seek that the provision is changed to align with the National Policy Statement for Essential Freshwater Management, specifically that exclusion only apply to waterways greater than 1m wide, the stocking rate of 18su/ha is deleted and that hill country farms are excluded.
* This provides clarity to landowners when implementing the rule and is a practical and reasonable definition.
* This definition ensures stock are not unneccesarily excluded from certain areas of the farm which would lead to unnecessary cost and loss of productive land.

  |
| *Use these prompts to help you personalise your submission** *Think about how this rule would be applied on your farm. Is there anything that you need clarified to know how it would work practically on the ground? I.e. what would or wouldn’t be excluded?*
 |
| **TANK 5**Use of Production Land (change in use of more than 10% of land on a property greater than 10ha) Associated Objectives and Policies.  | * I support with amendments.
* I support the Controlled Activity Status given to Change in Land Use but oppose the requirement for landowners to be part of a Catchment Collective to be a Controlled Activity when changing the use of their land.
 | * I seek that Condition b) be amended to include Farm Environment Plans meeting the requirements of Schedule 30C.

 * I seek that this rule is amended so that the threshold for change is 20ha or 20% of the property whichever is greater.
* This is consistent with TANK 1 & 2 which encourage the development of Farm Environment Plans **or** landowners to be part of Catchment Collectives.
 |
| *Use these prompts to help you personalise your submission** *Again, consider your understanding of the activity status’s. Acknowlegde your understanding that a Resource Consent for a controlled activity must be granted and is likely to be a shorter, less costly Resource Consent. Consider how this certainty contributes to your willingness to engage in the consenting process if you are changing your land use significantly.*
 |
| **Stock Drinking Water Section 6.10.2 Water Take and Use.** Associated Objectives and Policies.  | * I oppose that the TANK Plan does not appropriately provide for stock drinking water as a permitted activity and priority take.
 | * I propose that the taking of water for reasonable domestics needs and the needs of animals for drinking water is appropriately provided for and that taking of water for these purposes is prioritised above other non-essential takes.
* This ensures the welfare of animals is protected.

  |
| *Use these prompts to help you personalise your submission.* * *Consider your stock water requirements;*
* *Implications for stock drinking water in response to rules requiring stock to be excluded from waterbodies and therefore the need for on farm water reticulation.*
 |

**Conclusion**

* *Add any final or summarising comments.*
* Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. I/We welcome the opportunity to further discuss any of the points above with Hawkes Bay Regional Council, should you wish for more information.
* For any inquiries relating to this feedback please contact [*name of person or yourself who will deal with any enquiries*]on [n*umber, email address etc.*].

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*

*[Name]*

*[Date]*