

Andrew McGiven

1. My name is Andrew McGiven and I am the Waikato Federated Farmers President. I'll be brief. I want to introduce the Panel to Federated Farmers, explain how important PC1 is to our members and reject some conspiracy theories introduced by Farmers for positive change.
2. Federated Farmers is a primary sector organisation with a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand farmers involved in a range of rural businesses.
3. Federated Farmers represents members who are engaged in a wide range of land use activities in the Waikato and Waipa River Catchment. This includes dairy farms, a range of drystock activities (including sheep and beef for meat and wool, cattle grazing for dairy support and deer for meat and velvet), arable (Maize growing etc), horticulture activities (from commercial vegetable growing to cropping to orchards), farm forestry and intensive farming activities like pig farming. Many of our members have multiple sector interests.
4. In the Waikato province we have over 1,900 members. Federated Farmers boundaries are different than those of regional councils. Plan Change 1 also affects other Federated Farmers provinces like Auckland province and the Taupo / Rotorua provinces. With me today is the president of the Taupo / Rotorua provinces, Alan Wills.
5. Federated Farmers consider Plan Change 1 to be the most challenging regional policy change for our members in the Waikato region .
6. Both in the lead up to and following Federated Farmers' original submission on Plan Change 1 and Variation 1, Federated Farmers has undertaken extensive consultation with its members. This has included public meetings, member advisories, newspaper articles, discussion groups, one on one meetings, meetings with stakeholders, and projects with individual farmers to understand the implications of Plan Change 1.
7. Federated Farmers has also undertaken extensive consultation with a range of farming and community interest groups, as well as territorial authorities and businesses that rely on the rural economy.
8. As such, Federated Farmers were saddened to see some of the statements from Farmers 4 Positive Change. We had extensive discussions with F4PC about PC1. However I understand they have filed statements well after the deadline for both filing of evidence and filing of rebuttal evidence which has some cheap shots aimed at Federated Farmers. As such Federated Farmers did not have an opportunity to rebut their evidence. In short we disagree with their statements regarding us. I'll keep it short but:
 - a. we disagree that Federated Farmers were "employed by Beef and Lamb NZ to do their policy development work". We always try to work co-operatively with other

primary sector groups and Beef and Lamb NZ is no exception. However we were not employed or paid to do Beef and Lamb NZ policy work.

- b. A suggestion could be read in that Federated Farmers asserted influence to favour dairy over other sectors or engineered policy to protect 'big business dairy'. That is just not true. Our submissions on Variation 1 shows that we are concerned about all sectors.
 - 1) Our submission supports low Nitrogen emitters like hill country drystock by way of a permitted baseline.
 - 2) Our submission proposes changes to the stock exclusion provisions that would assist hill country farming.
 - 3) Our submission generally supports that the highest emitters reduce, via the 75th percentile mechanism .
 - 4) Our submissions was one of the few with an alternative submission point to deal with commercial vegetable growing.
9. As the largest pan sector organisation representing farming interests, Federated Farmers has attempted to find a middle ground position that attempts to balance the competing interests. We are very proud of our submissions especially on Variation 1. It is accumulation of a lot of work and thought from many different parts of the Federation and from outside.
10. Thank you for your time.