

# Industry Good Practice in the Policy Plan Change

Sheep and Beef Sector

A wide-angle photograph of a lush green hillside under a clear blue sky. The hillside is covered in a dense herd of sheep and beef cattle. The sheep are scattered across the upper part of the slope, while the beef cattle are more concentrated in the lower and middle sections. The cattle are of various breeds, including some with distinctive white faces and bodies. The overall scene depicts a healthy and active agricultural landscape.

# Introduction

- What's happening in other catchments?
- Beef and Lamb NZ perspective
- Fed farmers Meat and Fibre perspective
- Feedback from farmers
- Answers to the questions requested by facilitator

Whats happening around NZ?

Canterbury

# Canterbury

- Farm Environment Plans template (FEP's not LEP's) designed with help of B and L NZ.
- Minimum requirements must be met.
- An assessment of the risks to water quality associated with the major farming activities on the property and how the identified risks will be managed.
  - (a) ***Nutrient management***
  - (b) ***Irrigation management***
  - (c) ***Soils management***
  - (d) ***Wetlands and riparian management***
  - (e) ***Collected animal effluent management***
  - (f) ***Livestock management***
- Intention to have every plan audited followed by a grading system to determine timing of next audit.

Whats happening around NZ?

Horizons

# Horizons

- Sustainable Land Use Initiative plans (SLUI Plans)
- Voluntary with incentives for last 10 years
- 500 Plans delivered
- Projected outcomes – approx 70% reduction in sediment
- Landowner completes works
- Works checked by land management staff
- Incentives for farmers to work with this
- Not overly burdensome in terms of paperwork etc

Whats happening around NZ?

Development of Industry QA  
requirements

# Development of Industry QA requirements

- Many processors QA requirements include auditing for farm environment management
- RMPP currently working on developing a pan sector approach

**Beef and Lamb NZ**

**Farm Environment Plans**

Use in regulation

# BEEF + LAMB NEW ZEALAND

- Land and Environment Plan (LEP)
- Key tool for engagement at a farm level
- Based on assessment of whole farm system
- Helps to identify environmental risk and manage those risks over time
- Large investment from B+LNZ in development, support and delivery

# LEPs have a key role to play but please consider.....

- Regulatory requirement to adopt an LEP may move it to a compliance tick box exercise – **high risk in reducing real value of LEP**
- Beef + Lamb New Zealand does not have the capacity to audit farm plans for compliance purposes
- Beef + Lamb New Zealand has developed templates to support levy payers to be able to meet regulatory requirements (Hawkes Bay and Canterbury) – these are not LEP's
- Do not support Councils specifically requiring the blanket adoption of farm plans regulation.

# Key Points

- LEPs have a role in meeting regulatory requirements and managing to limits
- Prefer not to have LEPs adopted as a regulatory requirement
- Preference would be to support catchment based outcomes through the adoption of LEPs by farmers
- LEP's can prioritise farm based actions to achieve management of key contaminants in priority catchments

# Fed Farmers – Meat and Fibre

- Depends upon what is being fixed
- For example if targeting sediment and E coli then the introduction of LEP's with this focus could be beneficial
- However, if targeting nitrogen then may be only limited actions which could be undertaken via the introduction of an LEP
- Suggest targeting hot spots, priority catchments
- Recommend values become 'front and center' of this conversation

# Sector Feedback - Farmers

- B and L NZ Environmental Focus Farm Field Day
- B and L NZ LEP Farm Planning Day - Momona
- MPI National Collaborative Group - Farm Environment Plans - Hamilton Workshop
- WRC Farm planning Workshop – Otorohonga
- Cambridge Discussion Group – Benn Road
- Farmer focus group email

# Sector Feedback – Farmers

- Farmers placed great value on the farm planning process and the importance of their ownership of it...

*“...farm plans used to be viewed as something that would mean losing control of what you do on your farm, now they could become something that can help a farmer **retain control** of what happens on their farm”*

# Sector Feedback – Farmers

- Farmers saw farm plans as a medium to facilitate farmers and council working together

*“We need to work together with regional council in the auditing process to build closer relationships, not us and them.”*

# Sector Feedback – Farmers

- Farmers spoke of the best form of engagement is through the promotion of all benefits of good practice.

*“Good farm environmental practice will increase when farmers can see the benefits ie: the financial gains from a targeted focus on individual land management units matched with appropriate stock class”*

# Sector Feedback – Farmers

- Farmers addressed concerns raised by other sectors around the division of land into land use capability units...

*“...its not about intensification its about land optimization”*



# Do you think these systems should be in the plan at all?

- Yes, Voluntary with Incentives
- Industry led land environment plans as a non regulatory method
- This acknowledges methods by which industry is leading on farm change
- Gives opportunity to link these to incentives to prioritise actions

# Should there be some form of requirement to have a plan?

- Concern that regulatory requirement to adopt an LEP will dilute the effectiveness of this valuable tool
- However, there is support for the acknowledgement of farmers who are on the front foot and adopt farm plans voluntarily by.....
- Streamlining consent processes
- Opening doors for funding

What sort of auditing or monitoring or performance standards would you envisage?

- Farmers and WRC need to work together closely – *“not them and us”*
- Positive feedback from SLUI process - Horizons
- Target Priority Catchments

# What would be the role of WRC?

- Set regulation - based on meeting clear catchment objectives and outcomes
- Ensure farm plans are farmer driven - to comply with clear rules rather than a requirement to have a farm plan
- Support farmers - provide for flexibility between farming systems
- Auditing/compliance and enforcement - should be clear and cost effective

# What would be the role of industry bodies?

- Support delivery of existing plans
- Work in partnership with WRC to prioritise delivery in priority catchments
- Encourage adoption where those are voluntary
- Report on progress







