



# Farm Environment Plans and Certified Industry Schemes as effective tools to achieve Stage 1 Objectives

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# Overview

- Miraka supports the use of Farm Environment Plans and Certified Industry Schemes as tools to deliver on Stage 1 Objectives
- Miraka established a Farming Excellence Programme to incentivised the adoption of Good Farming Practices three years ago and achieved considerable gains in a short time.
- Miraka will register Te Ara Miraka as a Certified Industry Scheme

## Our position on FEP's and a CIS

- Miraka seeks a regulatory framework that is fair and equitable. Farm Environment Plans (FEP's) achieve this by addressing all risks at a farm specific level and facilitates co-ownership of mitigating solutions with land managers.
- The later is a necessary element of achieving buy-in and confidence from land managers.
- A focus on FEP's as the primary tool for change also underpins our position that those land users that can change practices for the benefit of the PC1 objectives the most, will.
- Miraka also supports a Certified Industry Scheme (CIS) and its associated Permitted Activity framework as an effective option given our own experience with Te Ara Miraka



## Te Ara Miraka

- Miraka established the Te Ara Miraka Farming Excellence Programme three years ago to build resilience within our farming community, which provides Miraka improved milk procurement assurance. It also had a strong mandate from its Iwi shareholders to achieve Kaitiakitanga outcomes throughout its supply chain, even if this were at a commercial cost (circa \$3.5m annually).
- The programme consists of 30 Good Farming Practices, addressing environmental, people, animal wellbeing, milk quality and prosperity targets. Many of these standards are mandatory, others are financially incentivised.
- Land managers are independently audited annually against these standards.



# Te Ara Miraka

- A summary of some of the key successes of GFP adoption across our supply community is within supporting documents
- What we have learned:
  - Clarity of participant expectations essential to success
  - Support and direction important elements
  - Rate of change can be improved through incentivisation's
  - Accountability required for non-action
- Accountability can be created through consistent auditing against commitments and consequences for non-action.

## FEP's

- Miraka FEP's identify 4 contaminant risks, appropriate GFP's or new innovations to mitigate these risks and lastly establish a timebound action plan of land manager commitments
- These plans need to be engaging (visual, interactive & co-authored)
- Audited, with consequences for non-action
- Kept "live" through regular referencing within communications.

## CIS's

- CIS's provide Miraka further assurance that its supply community will meet consenting requirements
- Key elements to effectiveness:
  - Transparency & accountability required to gain community confidence
  - WRC auditing of CIS framework to maintain consistency
  - Adequate support & education of participants of what is required (via FEP's)
  - Consequences for non-action include Regional Council enforcement, removal from the CIS and in our case – supply termination
  - Reporting of gains towards progress of achieving Stage 1 objectives