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Dairy Farmer Reporoa Upper Waikato River

Farm Sustainability Plan

Farm Environment Plan should be called Farm Sustainability plan. This document is where the rubber hits the road. Way more important than any number. Actions speak louder than words.

FSP needs to consider financial constraints.

Should be adaptable to future issues, Carbon and Biodiversity.

Part of sustainability is a profitably business.

Community and people wellbeing are paramount.

I am scared of where this is going to end up.

Overseer

Overseer should be replaced by the FSP.

To not disadvantage good farm practice. This is a concern to me as I have been working hard in this space on my own farm.

Low emitters within a land use can have some upward movement.

The number shouldn't be important the actions should.

Responsible Parties

Please make all parties do their bit. This means point sources as well.

NRP

Years that NRP to be worked out from were not fair seasons to get an average.

2014/15 Drought 2015/16 Very Low payout.

Land prices are already being affected by potential NRP number. This seems extremely unfair when some farmers were already acting responsibly but now could be penalized.

A 5-year rolling average with the NPR would help farmers with yearly fluctuations caused by weather events or pay out. Possibly consider a band approach for types of land use.

I believe that the problems in each sub catchment are different. Each sub catchment has its own issues. If we want to improve water quality lets put the resources where we are going to get the best bang for the buck.

For example.

Lincoln Agritech has been monitoring Nitrogen movement on our farm and 3 others in the Reporoa basin. This was done because the Nitrogen levels in the Waio tapu river did not increase significantly but it travelled through a reasonably large Dairy Farming area. It turns out there is a buried forest (from Taupo eruption) 4 to 10 metres under the surface. This forest is a carbon sink and is denitrifying the soil. This research is still on going.

Cultivation

Cultivation of slopes steeper than 15 degrees. 15 degrees is not that steep and will severely affect a lot of farms.

Need to define Cultivation or levels of cultivation. Farmers would generally consider cultivation as ploughing, rotary hoeing or power harrowing, where land is turned over.

This is opposed to under sowing and harvesting.

I support the Federated Farmers submission.