

Waikare- Whangamarino Action Plan

- Presentation by Neil Bateup
- Dairy Farmer in the Matahuru Catchment



Consultation

- I became aware 2 weeks ago that many landowners in the two most affected catchments (the Matahuru and southern Waikare) had never heard of the Action Plan.
- We as landowners in these catchments have not had any representation on the Action Plan Working Group.
- I Contacted 33 landowners in these catchments who signed a letter to Councillors expressing their concern about the lack of communication. They represent 11011 hectares of the catchment.
- The majority are in the RD4 Ohinewai Rural delivery area where the contractor will not deliver the Chatter. (I understand it was to be the method of communication).
- These areas are also not part of the Te Kauwhata Facebook community (also a method of communication).

Economics

- There has been no cost benefit analysis done on the planting of the hill country (Class 5 or 6 or 7 or all of it?).
- There has been no cost benefit analysis done on the “management” of Lake Waikare water levels.
- There is no definition of what “deintensifying” agriculture means and the economic cost of that.
- Interestingly, in spite of the assertions that the intensification of Dairying has caused the problems in the Lake, since the 70’s and 80’s the number of Dairy farms in the catchment has dropped from 45 to 20. Cow numbers have dropped from 7180 to 5710. AN 18% DROP!!
- A recent Economic Report deduced that for every \$1 earned on a Dairy Farm in the area then \$7.20 is returned to the local, regional and national economy. For every dollar lost the reverse is also true.

Social

- The loss of farms to bush or inundation or downsizing will have major social effects by cutting the population and jobs not only on farm but in service industries.
- Schools will be affected and sports clubs and in effect the whole social fabric of the districts will be badly disrupted.
- Many landowners will lose their businesses, their homes and their way of life, many of them intergenerational, a very high cost to pay.



Feedback

- I would like to read some feedback from the Te Kauwhata Meeting



Conclusion

- I am aware that some 1600 beef animals will “virtually fenced” with halter this winter to keep them from sensitive areas without physical fences.
- I am concerned that the unrecognised good environmental work that has been done for many years, and should continue into the future, will stop because of the uncertainty created by the Action Plan.
- I would recommend that the Plan be withdrawn until proper consultation has occurred and a cost-benefit analysis has been done on the various options proposed.