



Report 04.289
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Regional Action Plan for the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval of the Regional Action Plan prepared for the Wellington Region as part of the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.

2. Background

The Dairying and Clean Streams Accord (the Accord) was prepared by the Fonterra Co-operative Group, regional councils, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It was signed by all parties in May 2003. Neil Clarke, Chairman, Regional Affairs Committee, Local Government New Zealand, was the signatory for regional councils.

The Accord provides a framework for actions to promote sustainable dairy farming in New Zealand. It focuses on reducing the impacts of dairying on the quality of New Zealand streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater and wetlands. One of the priorities for action in the Accord is for Fonterra and regional councils to develop regional action plans for the main dairying regions by June 2004. A copy of the Accord is attached (Attachment 1).

3. Developing the Regional Action Plan

The purpose of regional action plans is to specify local commitments toward achieving the goal of the Accord and meeting the national performance targets, while taking into account local circumstances.

The performance targets in the Accord are:

1. Dairy cattle excluded from 50% of streams, rivers and lakes by 2007, 90% by 2012.

2. 50% of regular crossing points have bridges or culverts by 2007, 90% by 2012.
3. 100% of farm dairy effluent discharges to comply with resource consents and regional plans immediately.
4. 100% of dairy farms to have in place systems to manage nutrient inputs and outputs by 2007.
5. 50% of regionally significant wetlands to be fenced by 2005, 90% by 2007.

In October 2003, a working group with Fonterra was formed to start the preparation of a Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region (the Plan). The group comprised Charlotte Rutherford of Fonterra (Shane Lodge took over from Charlotte in February) and John Monaghan from the Shareholders' Council, Joe Taylor and John Coveney of Federated Farmers, and three staff from Greater Wellington (Tim Porteous, Helen Marr and Kirsten Forsyth). The Federated Farmers representatives were involved to provide a perspective from the wider farming community. The resulting plan is broadly similar to those being prepared for other regions around the country.

The Executive Management Team discussed the last draft of the plan at its meeting in March. Its comments were incorporated in this final draft, which was agreed with Fonterra representatives in April. The Fonterra Board considered the Plan at its meeting in May. A copy of the Plan is attached (Attachment 2).

The Rural Services Wairarapa Committee considered the plan at its meeting on 29 April, 2004 (Report 04.210). It recommended that the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee approve the Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region. A concern was expressed at that meeting about the "confidentiality agreement" between Fonterra and Greater Wellington mentioned in section 2.4 of the Plan. As a result of that concern, we reviewed the need for such an agreement and considered it unnecessary because this information is already publicly available.

When the plan was considered by the Environment Committee at its meeting on 13 May, 2004 (Report 04.242), we recommended that the references to a "confidentiality agreement" for Greater Wellington information be deleted from the Plan. The Environment Committee agreed and recommended to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee that it approve the amended Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region.

4. Strategic context

The Regional Action Plan, prepared as part of our commitment to the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord, is in keeping with one of Greater Wellington's strategic objectives, "clean and healthy rivers, streams and coasts".

5. Conclusion

As well as being consistent with the Council's strategic approach, the Action Plan is a way of implementing the non-regulatory approach of our regional plans. It will also complement our regulatory work.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *receive the report;*
2. *note the contents;*
3. *approve the Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: The Dairying and Clean Streams Accord
Attachment 2: Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region