



WAIRARAPA
c/- Castlepoint Station
RD 9
Masteron 5880
New Zealand

7 May 2008

MAF

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express Wairarapa Federated Farmers' support for the Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative.

In September 2006 Wairarapa Federated Farmers called an open meeting with the Greater Wellington Regional Council to express the dismay with the lack of resourcing for their ongoing erosion control programs. In that meeting it was recognised the GWRC had a tremendous track record of successful and innovative hill country protection programs (Sustainability Plans, one-on-one advisory service, supply of project material, and regional grants for on farm projects). A large percentage of the regional GDP comes from the hill country farms. However with the increasingly urban focus of the GWRC, the value of these programs was not being recognised. As a result of that meeting the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee was formed to provide more direct input to the GWRC councilors on hill country issues.

The WHAC is trying to not only preserve the existing GWRC programs, but expand them. The existing programs are working well and have strong support from the landowners. However, limited resources mean the progress is far too slow. The Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative would give a welcome boost to the resources available and allow for a significant expansion in the the area able to be protected.

Wairarapa Federated Farmers strongly supports the Initiative. Programs pioneered by GWRC and its predecessors are now being emulated by other regional councils around NZ. This confirms the value of the work that is being done by GWRC.

Sincerely,

Anders Crofoot
Provincial President
Wairarapa Federated Farmers