

Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1 Waikato and Waipa River Catchment

Justine Young

DairyNZ 

Farmer engagement

- PC1 affects 2,550 dairy farms (~850 Waipa, ~1,700 Waikato)
- Dairy reps on CSG were informed by farmer feedback and governance-level dairy sector group
- From 2014 DairyNZ ran 70 meetings with farmers and joined in with other ag group processes

Waikato Dairy Leaders group

- Set up to provide a unified voice for dairy sector
- Overall support for the direction of travel
 - Achieving the Vision & Strategy water quality is challenging, and community wellbeing is important, so it should be staged
- Farmers must start making changes
- Gather info for decisions in next plan change in 10 years

DairyNZ - Retain key aspects of PC1

1. All 4 contaminants must be managed - sediment, microbes, N & P
2. Staged approach
3. Manage land use change to achieve desired water quality outcomes
4. Require actions that will make a difference by 2026
5. Establish a baseline of nitrogen loss
6. For now, require all farmers to hold to a baseline nitrogen loss
& assume next plan change will take a different approach
7. Require the highest nitrogen leaching farms to reduce

Overview of evidence

- Confident that the technical underpinning of PC1 is sufficiently robust for the decisions made
- Any changes should be to improve consistency, accuracy and ease of implementation
- Support objectives