

Here To Help

JUNE 2016

TUKITUKI PLAN CHANGE

is HBRC's first catchment-specific plan change, paving the way for land management in Hawke's Bay.

TUKITUKI MYTH BUSTERS

It doesn't affect me: All landowners on more than 4ha are affected and need to know what to do.

I don't use much fertiliser - It's not me: Excess fertiliser affects water quality, but stock access to waterways and how stock are managed over winter can be a major source of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, sediment and faecal bacteria. Erosion and runoff from tracks or yards are also a factor.

If I can't use fertiliser, the place will go backwards: Using more fertiliser than necessary is a risk to water quality and a waste of money. Applying a suitable rate of the right fertiliser at the right time is economic and environmental good-practice.

Dairy farmers are doing the damage: For some issues, dairy farms can be higher risk than drystock, though dairy is only 4% of land use in Tukituki catchment. Dairy operators recognise their potential environmental effects and are proactive - investing significant time and money on waterway fencing, effluent systems and nutrient budgets.

I'm doing a good job now. Why this Farm Environmental Management Plan? It's about catching the good work farmers and industries are doing now, plus identifying where environmental performance can improve. The benefit of an FEMP is having worked with a qualified provider - using a farmer's detailed property knowledge - to assess the unique characteristics of a farm, getting existing and new actions into a consistent format.

My farm is leased out - not my problem: As with paying rates, landowners must meet legal requirements. It may be easier for the leasee to complete some Plan Change obligations - both parties should discuss their input.

Nutrient budgets, farm plans and fences - I'll be broke: All landowners must act to reduce individual impacts on water quality. Get the right advice on what to do first. Keep the focus on practical, affordable steps - such as poplar pole planting for erosion control. Some actions may only mean changes in management and involve little cost. If it's all a bit daunting, we are here to help - give HBRC Land Advisors a call.

I'm not in the Tukituki - not my problem: No, not yet. At some stage you will be affected. Take the opportunity to understand what good environmental management is and start now.

If I wait long enough, this might go away: The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 means that overall freshwater quality in a region must be maintained or improved. This important issue in our region looks set to stay.



RE-USING VINEYARD POSTS

Hawke's Bay winegrowers are helping farmers in the Papanui area to protect their waterways.

A recycled vineyard post scheme is an innovative joint effort from Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand (SWNZ), HBRC and the Papanui sub-catchment strategy focus group.

Xan Harding of SWNZ has been approaching vineyards about stockpiles of tanalised posts which have been removed or broken during redevelopment or harvest. Many posts are a perfect length for stock fencing.

Otane farmer Rick White recently collected a truckload of posts from Mission vineyard. "It's a bit of a challenge for farmers with new environmental regulations. It took a bit of sorting, but I got a good load, including angle posts and strainers. Given the costs, access to fencing materials is a big help."

HBRC Land Management Advisor Warwick Hesketh says the scheme is a trial for now, but may be extended. Farmers in the Papanui, or other priority sub-catchments, keen to get started on stock exclusion can contact Warwick on **06 833 8001**.


HAWKE'S BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**TUKI
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