

# 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  
TUKI**

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