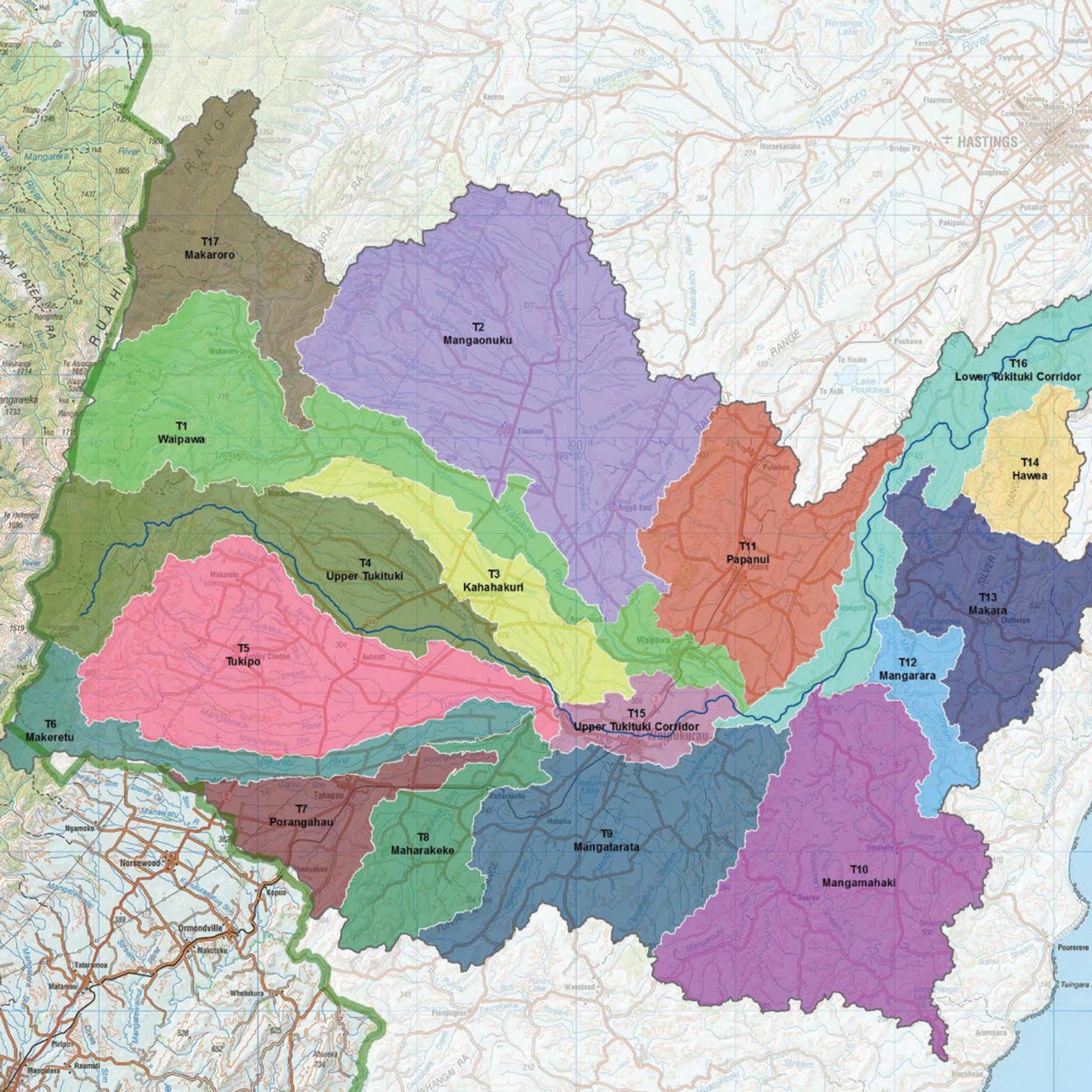


THE TUKITUKI PLAN

What you need to know
about water quantity
and water quality

August 2016



T17
Makaroro

T2
Mangaonuku

T16
Lower Tukituki Corridor

T1
Waipawa

T4
Upper Tukituki

T14
Hawea

T3
Kahakauri

T11
Papanui

T13
Makara

T5
Tukipo

T15
Upper Tukituki Corridor

T12
Mangarara

T6
Makeretu

T7
Porangahau

T8
Maharakeke

T9
Mangatarata

T10
Mangamahaki



THE TUKITUKI PLAN

Also known as Plan Change 6 (PC6) affects every property located in the Tukituki River catchment over 4 ha in area.

TUKITUKI RIVER SUB-CATCHMENTS

- T1 Waipawa
- T2 Mangaonuku
- T3 Kahahakuri
- T4 Upper Tukituki
- T5 Tukipo
- T6 Makaretu
- T7 Porangahau
- T8 Maharakeke
- T9 Mangatarata
- T10 Mangamahaki
- T11 Papanui
- T12 Mangarara
- T13 Makara
- T14 Hawea
- T15 Upper Tukituki Corridor
- T16 Lower Tukituki Corridor
- T17 Makaroro

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green landscape. The river is surrounded by dense vegetation and grassy banks. In the lower-left portion of the image, a person wearing a hat and dark clothing is wading in the water, holding a long pole or instrument. The image is overlaid with several curved, semi-transparent white lines that sweep across the top and right sides. A large blue circle is positioned in the lower-right quadrant, containing white text.

WATER QUANTITY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you have an existing water permit, or are looking to take water in this catchment, please read on to make sure you understand how the Tukituki Plan has changed things in your area.

The Plan now has allocation limits for both groundwater and surface water.

ALLOCATION LIMITS

SURFACE WATER

At the moment surface water is considered to be ‘fully allocated’ – there is no water available to allocate, unless you are willing to take it at high flows (see section over). It may be possible to allocate water to stream depleting groundwater takes outside the Ruataniwha Basin. If your property is in the Otane Basin or the Ruataniwha Basin, you are subject to new groundwater allocation limits.

GROUNDWATER

In the Ruataniwha Basin, the Tukituki Plan provides for two groundwater allocation blocks - Tranche 1 and Tranche 2.

No new Tranche 1 groundwater can be granted from the Ruataniwha Basin as allocation limits are met. Groundwater is currently available for allocation from the Otane groundwater area. You should check groundwater allocation availability with the Council before proceeding with any projects reliant on obtaining a groundwater consent.

Tranche 2 water can be applied for. However to take this water you have to release water to a surface water body to mitigate the effects of your take. Applications have already been received for all of this water so there is no guarantee that later applications will be successful.

There is no allocation limit set for groundwater takes in the rest of the catchment, so you can apply for new groundwater at any time.

MINIMUM FLOWS

Minimum flows are going to increase. The first increases occur in July 2018, and a further increase to the Red Bridge minimum flow occurs in July 2023. The new minimum flows will be clearly stated in your resource consent. The Red Bridge minimum flow will apply to all direct surface takes, as well as those groundwater takes classified as direct and high stream depletion takes. Other local minimum flows may also apply.

The Tukituki Plan has introduced the concept of ‘survival water’. This is water that is taken for the sole purpose of avoiding the death of permanent horticultural or viticultural root stock, and as a second priority to avoid death of crops (excluding pasture, animal fodder crops and maize). This water can be taken during periods of low flows, but you must apply to the Regional Council to have it provided for by a resource consent

SEASONAL - ANNUAL VOLUMES

All groundwater permits in the Ruataniwha Basin have been reviewed and specify an annual volume limit. Other consents, such as surface water takes and groundwater consents outside of the Ruataniwha Basin, will be given seasonal volumes as they expire, are changed or need to be reviewed.

NEW DAMS AND HIGH FLOW TAKES

You can still apply to build a dam on your property, and take water to fill it. You will have to take water at ‘high flow’ to fill it. There is now an allocation in the plan for high flow takes, and there is currently water still available to allocate for this purpose. There are also new policies that apply to in-stream dams.

On-farm water storage projects can be tricky so we advise you to get in touch with Paul Barrett at the Regional Council to talk about them early in the process. You are likely to require professional assistance to help you prepare a consent application for a water storage project. This will probably include advice from an engineer, hydrologist and planner.

STREAM DEPLETING GROUNDWATER TAKES

The plan change sets out a new method for assessing and managing groundwater takes that may effect surface water bodies. This process applies to all existing and new groundwater takes screened shallower than 50 m¹ deep. If your well is screened deeper than 50 m it won't be considered to have a stream depletion effect, so this will not be an issue.

For wells screened less than 50 m deep, the effect of your groundwater take on nearby surface water will need to be

assessed² and classified into one of four categories, explained in the table below. The 'effect' referred to in the table means the amount (in L/s) of water that does not reach streams as a result of taking from your well.

You may need to get professional advice from a hydrogeologist to help you determine your stream depletion risk category. Talk to the Council first to see if this is likely to be necessary.

HOW STREAM DEPLETION EFFECTS WILL BE MANAGED

EFFECT	CLASSIFICATION	WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON MY CONSENT CONDITIONS?
Greater than 2 L/s and 90% or greater of average 7 day groundwater pump rate	Direct	You will have minimum flow conditions on your consent, and the effect of your take will be included in the surface water allocation.
Greater than 2 L/s and >60% of average 150 day groundwater pump rate	High	You will have minimum flow conditions on your consent but these will allow you to take 50% of your daily volume below the minimum flow if your consent is for irrigation. The effect of your take will also be included in the surface water allocation.
Greater than 2 L/s and 20-60% of average 150 day groundwater pump rate	Medium	You will not get a minimum flow on your consent, but the effect of your take is included in the surface water allocation calculations.
2 L/s or less, or less than 20% of average 150 day groundwater pump rate	Low	You will not get a minimum flow on your consent, and the effect of your take does not have to fit within the surface water allocation.

¹ If your property is located downstream of Red Bridge (the bridge over the Tukituki River on the road to Waimarama), then the process only applies if your well screen is less than 40 m deep.

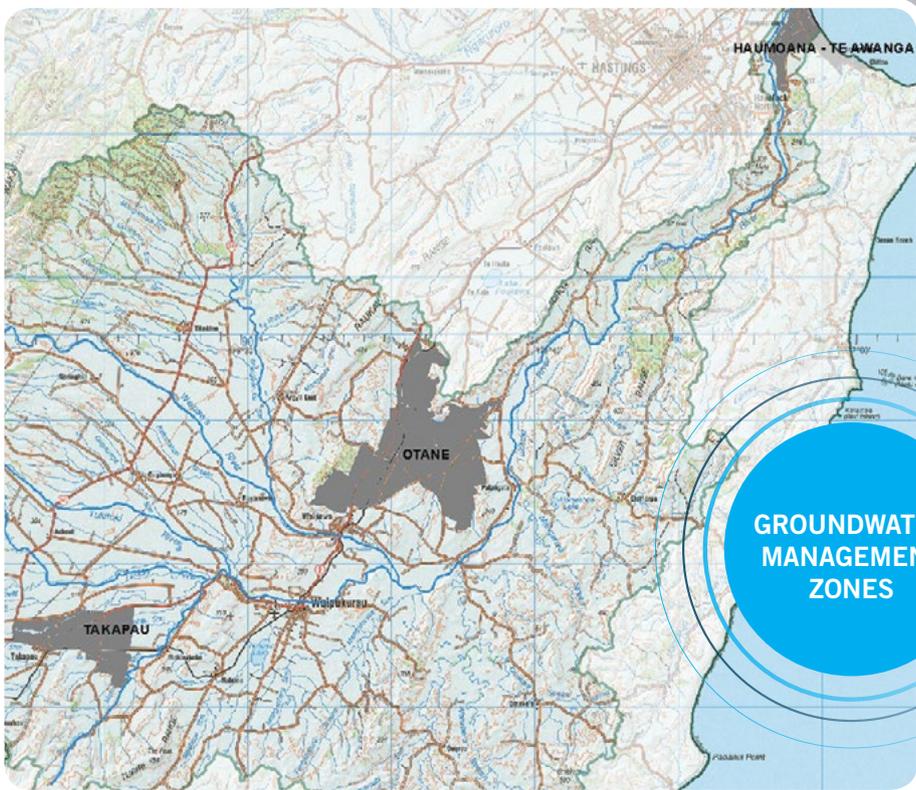
² Details about how to assess the potential stream depletion effect of your well are set out in POL TT11 of The Tukituki Plan.

NO NEW PERMITTED SURFACE TAKES

If you wish to take any surface water (for any reason other than domestic or stock drinking water) you now have to get a resource consent to allow you to establish a new surface water take even if your take is for less than 20 m³/d.

Takes for domestic and stock drinking water continue to be permitted by Section 14 of the Resource Management Act, so you are still allowed to take water for those reasons without a consent from the Regional Council.

You can still take up to 20 m³/d groundwater for any reason, without a resource consent, as long as you are not in the areas shown on this map:





WATER QUALITY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Tukituki Plan affects every property located in the Tukituki River Catchment. Plan Change 6 or PC6 is another name given to HBRC's Plan Change for the Tukituki River and its wider catchment.

If your property is over 4 ha (or 10ha if your property is a low intensity¹ farming system), please read on to make sure you're doing the right things at the right time, to be compliant with the rules.

**CERTAIN
THINGS NEED TO
BE DONE BY KEY
DATES:**

THINGS TO DO

WHEN BY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN
NOW	Keep copies of your nutrient budget input and output files OR Keep all of the records specified in Schedule XXI of the Tukituki Plan so you can prepare a nutrient budget
31 May 2018	Submit a Farm Plan
31 May 2019 (and annually thereafter)	Check if your farm plan needs to be updated. If your farm system has changed ² in the last 12 months, your plan will need to be updated
31 May 2020	Implement your Farm Plan
	Ensure nitrogen leaching from your property complies with the LUC leaching rates set in the Tukituki Plan
	Exclude stock from rivers, lakes and wetlands ³ : If you live in a priority sub-catchment ⁴ (shown in the map over the page) you must exclude all stock (except sheep) on land with a slope of less than 15° AND land with a slope greater than 15° if the stocking rate of the paddock exceeds 18 su ⁵ /ha If you are outside a priority sub-catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On land with a slope of 15° or less, you must exclude all livestock (except sheep) • On land with a slope greater than 15° with a stocking rate of more than 18 su/ha you must exclude all livestock (except sheep) OR, if stock exclusion it is not practicable you will need to do other things in an effort to minimise sediment and other sources of P entering streams
	Bridge or culvert all rivers crossed by formed stock races
31 May 2021 (then 3 yearly)	Submit an updated farm plan to HBRC

WHAT IF I DON'T DO IT

If you do not do the things in this table, you will need to apply to the Regional Council for a resource consent. If your nitrogen leaching exceeds the LUC rate by more than 30% you may need to make significant changes to your operation to reduce nitrogen leaching. For example, these might include reducing stock numbers, or building a lined feed pad.

¹ 'Low intensity' means no more than 8 stock units per hectare. It includes orchards, vineyards, etc. but does NOT include properties used for the production of rotational vegetation crops, i.e. onions, dairy farms or grazed forage crops such as kale.

² A 'farm system change' is a change that is beyond routine fluctuations that result from rotational, annual or seasonal variations in climatic and/or market conditions

³ 'Artificial watercourses' like irrigation canals and water supply races are not included in the definition of 'rivers' in the Resource Management Act, and are therefore not subject to these requirements.

⁴ The priority sub-catchments are the Papanui, Porangahau, Maharakeke, Tukipo, Kahahakuri and upper Tukituki sub-catchments

⁵ SU= stock units. The stocking rate calculation should exclude sheep.

FARM PLANS

These are referred to as Farm Environmental Management Plans in the Tukituki Plan, or as FEMPs. Your farm plan needs to identify environmental risks on your property, and set out how those risks will be managed, as well as other matters such as how industry good practice will be complied with on your property/enterprise. HBRC has approved some consultants who can prepare a farm plan for you.

There are also other options available to help you prepare a farm plan such as Beef and Lamb workshops. Search 'farm plans' on the HBRC website for more details.

FEMPs have to be prepared by a person with appropriate professional qualifications. They are intended to be a 'living' document that you revisit regularly and guide the nutrient management practices on your property. What needs to be included in a FEMP is set out in Schedule XXII of the Tukituki Plan which is available on our website. The level of detail required in a FEMP will depend on the size and complexity of your property or farming enterprise.



NITROGEN LEACHING

The Tukituki Plan uses the Land Use Capability (LUC) system to determine the maximum amount of nitrogen that can be leached from your whole property or farming enterprise⁶.

The allowance for each LUC class is detailed below.

Losses from each property should be calculated as a four year rolling average, derived from nutrient budgets prepared after 1 June 2013.

To work out the 'allowed' leaching limit for your property, you will first need to know the LUC classes for your land. Refer to HBRC's Land Use Capability (LUC) Tool on the Tukituki web pages at www.hbrc.govt.nz, keyword search: tukituki.

Once you know how much nitrogen you are allowed to leach from your property/ farming enterprise, you need to compare that number with your 'actual' nitrogen loss (from the root zone) modelled by Overseer (or an alternative model approved by us). If your 'modelled' loss is greater than your 'allowed' loss, then you need to apply to HBRC for a land use consent by 31 May 2020.

Be aware that the rates in the table are based on Overseer Version 5. The leaching limits are slightly higher when calculated with Overseer Version 6. The Council is working out a way that outputs from nutrient budgets using Version 6 can be compared against the numbers below. This protocol should be available soon.

LUC LEACHING ALLOWANCES

LUC ⁷ Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rate (kgN/ ha/ year)	30.1	27.1	24.8	20.7	20	17	11.6	3

⁶ A 'farming enterprise' is comprised of two or more separate properties, located in the same surface water allocation zone that are operated as a single unit.

⁷ LUC = Land Use Capability which is a classification system developed in the 1970's to help understand the sustainable production potential of NZ's agricultural land.

STOCK EXCLUSION FROM WATER BODIES

There are five main things to know about stock exclusion rules:

1. You do not need to exclude sheep.
2. If your property is in one of the priority sub-catchments, you will have to exclude stock (other than sheep) on flat land, AND on land with a slope greater than 15° if the stocking rate exceeds 18 su/ha, unless you apply for a resource consent.
3. Outside the priority sub-catchments, on land steeper than 15° where stocking rates exceed 18 su/ha you have choices about what you do. If it is not 'reasonably practical' to exclude stock you can identify other actions that you will take to reduce phosphorus losses from your farm, and detail these in a Phosphorus Management Plan. A Phosphorus Management Plan must be done as part of a Farm Plan, so you should have already

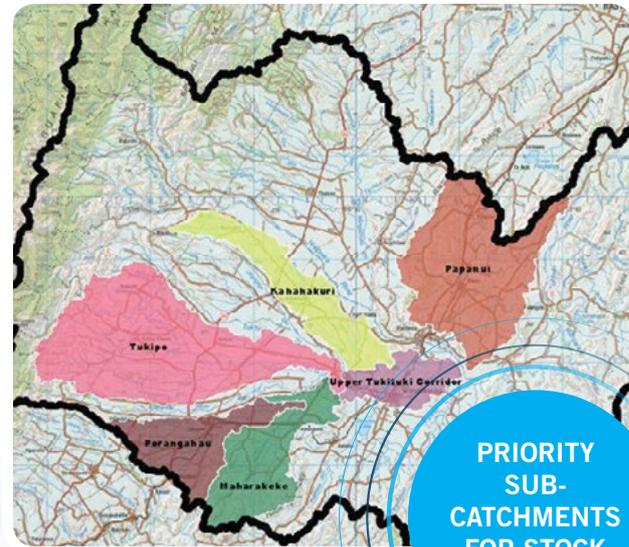
BRIDGES AND CULVERTS

As with the stock exclusion rules, this applies to all permanent and intermittent rivers. A formed stock race is one that is used fairly regularly to move stock along, i.e. a laneway on a dairy farm. You do not have to bridge or culvert locations where you actively herd stock across a river from time to time.

Please note you may require a land use consent from the Regional Council to authorise construction of your bridge or culvert. Give Charlotte Drury a call to check.

prepared one of these. If you do not exclude stock, or complete a PMP, you will need to apply for a resource consent by 31 May 2020.

4. You must exclude stock from all flowing permanent and intermittent rivers/ creeks, lakes and wetlands.
5. You are allowed to graze fenced-off riparian areas for weed control purposes, however you can only do this between 1 November and 30 April for a total of 7 days.



More Information

Tukituki Plan is detailed and contains a lot of information. If you have questions after reading this please visit our website

www.hbrc.govt.nz

keyword search: #tukituki

Or please call:

Charlotte Drury **(06) 833 8058**

Paul Barrett **(06) 833 8014**



Charlotte Drury



Paul Barrett