

Hearing for plan change 9 (TANK)

Good Morning

A little more background on us and our farming experience. I have an Ag Science degree and Lynette, my wife has a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Massey University. I spent 9 years as a fertiliser consultant before we embarked on a 19 year dairy farming career. Six years ago we shifted to our present 54 ha flat to medium hill beef and sheep farm. Lynette and I won 2 awards in the Balance farm environment awards and are committed to running farming enterprises that are sustainable for people, animals and the environment while being profitable.

Catchment collectives

I am involved in setting up the Karamu river catchments collective. My experience of that is it is a massive undertaking to bring all landowners together. Volunteer time is stretched already without adding further requirements. Getting a group running requires facilitators and admin support. I know both are in short supply adding to the time it will take to roll out the dozens required in the TANK area. To achieve positive environmental outcomes a catchment collective, once formed, will first need to quantify the issues and document what is already being done. For example there is only 1 HBRC water quality measurement site covering over 20,000 ha where the Paritua, Awanui and Poukawa catchments meet near Pakipaki. More testing and observations within the catchment are needed to work out what mitigations are required before a catchment plan can be fully developed. The draft implementation plan asks for this to be done 3 years after the plan is notified. I am asking that be extended to 5 years. Asking for 5 years is not saying nothing is already being or more will not be done on farm to improve water quality. For example last year we put in a 0.7 ha wetland which included over 1500 plants on our farm. All I'm saying is legislation has to be realistic and achievable.

Stock exclusion

Stock crossing a stream 2 times (once over and then once back) a month is allowed for in the Stock exclusion rules 2020. Tank does not allow this. On a previous farm we had a 1.5 ha paddock over a 10m wide river which to bridge it would cost over \$70 000. We couldn't crop or cut the paddock for silage due to the contour and soil type. There were also power lines across it so couldn't plant in forestry. We had no neighbours to sell it to as it had a road boundary. Many farms have an area isolated over a stream that may not practically be bridged. Clearly the ability to cross a stream is sensible in some situations and should be allowed for in PC9.

Farm Environment Plans.

For a FEP to be used and achieve results the landowner should be the main person writing it. If they get a professional to do it as a box ticking compliance exercise there will be minimal positive results. The ability for a landowner to use an industry body template with help from workshop facilitators will be a far better option than trying to get the low number of suitably qualified people to write them, both from a water quality outcome and the ability and cost of getting a professional to complete it. Water quality will improve faster if I spend several thousands of dollars on farm improvements than a report. Industry bodies such as Beef and Lamb, GAP, and Dairy NZ produce comprehensive FEP templates. HBRC doesn't need to reinvent the wheel by making something new. Also small farms, which I am one, the professional cost especially with the overseer annual subscription (now \$360/year) would be very onerous.

Domestic and Stock Water

Stock and domestic water are essential. Stock can drink large amounts of water, up to 70l each per day. Five cubic meters would only provide water for 71 animals and be totally inadequate for most farms. Even the 20 cubic meters as a limit would only service 285 cows, also inadequate for a huge number of farms in the TANK area. Stock water should not be subject to any restrictions in volume. If a farmer wants to take water for stock it is unlikely to be a new requirement but a change in where it is being drawn from due to fencing a stream or having to put a new bore down, no new water is required just a shift in where it is being taken from.

Thank You for the opportunity to present to you.

Jim Galloway