

Coalition Government National Policy Consultation 2025

Overview for Levy Payers

3 July 2025

Dairynz 

Agenda



Introduction to RMA Reforms and National Policy Consultation



Why These Changes Matter for Dairy Farmers



What is DairyNZ doing?



Key Policy Proposals: Rebalancing the NPS Freshwater Management and Te Mana o te Wai



The Science: Improving the National Objectives Framework (NOF)



Priority Activities: Water Storage, Wetlands and Nitrogen Cap (N-Cap), Other Topics



Discussion and Q&A

Broader Reform Programme



Resource Management Act reform – 3 Phases

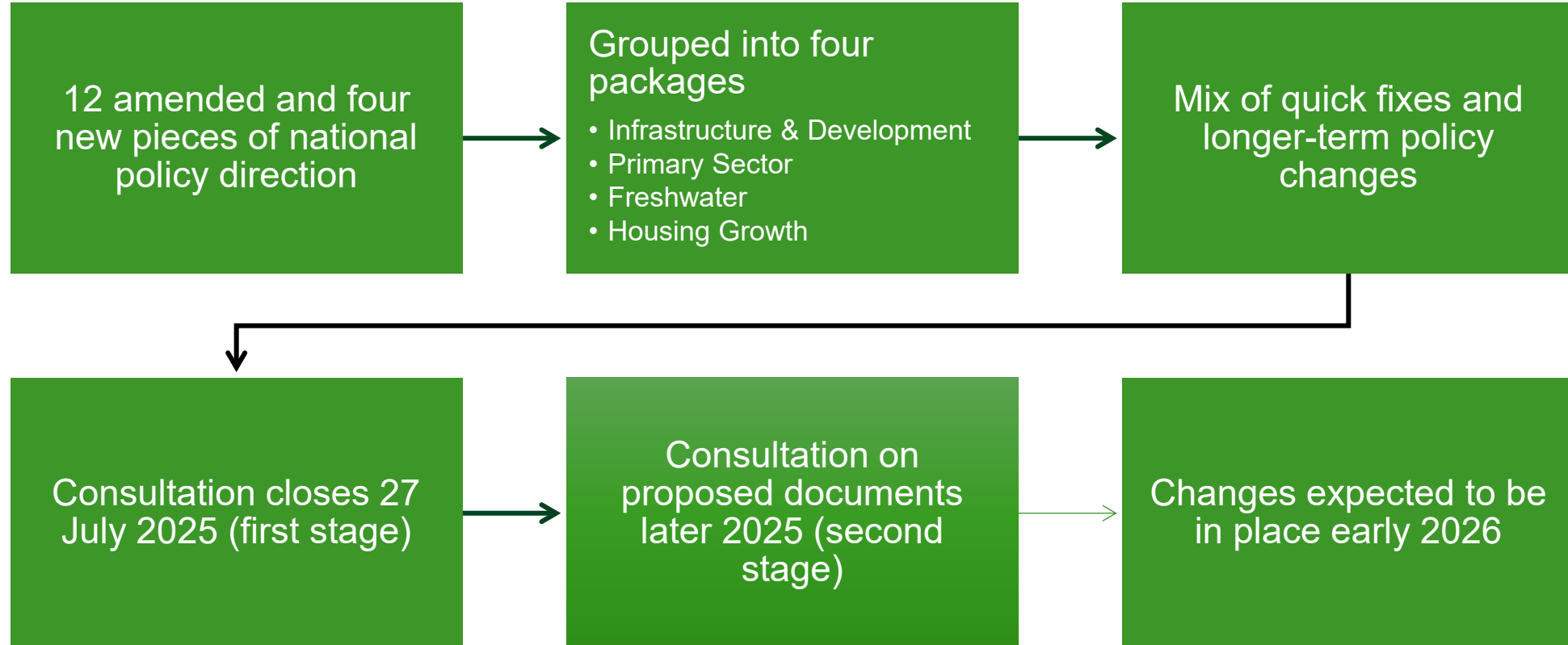


National Policy Consultation (focus of today)



Freshwater Farm Plans

Overview of Consultation



Why This Matters



How We're Working With Levy Payers



Dairy Environmental Leaders: June 30



All levy payers: Four webinars (July 2–12)



Māori / Iwi: Wānanga – direct engagement



Opportunity to provide feedback on our positions at this point



Goal: Informed, feedback on behalf of the sector and farmers

DairyNZ is well placed



Draft replacement National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management



Engaged with officials, regional councils, primary sector groups, and freshwater scientists



Led sector in Freshwater Farm Plan regulations



Made submissions on Resource Management Act Amendment Bills 1 and 2

What Does Success Look Like?

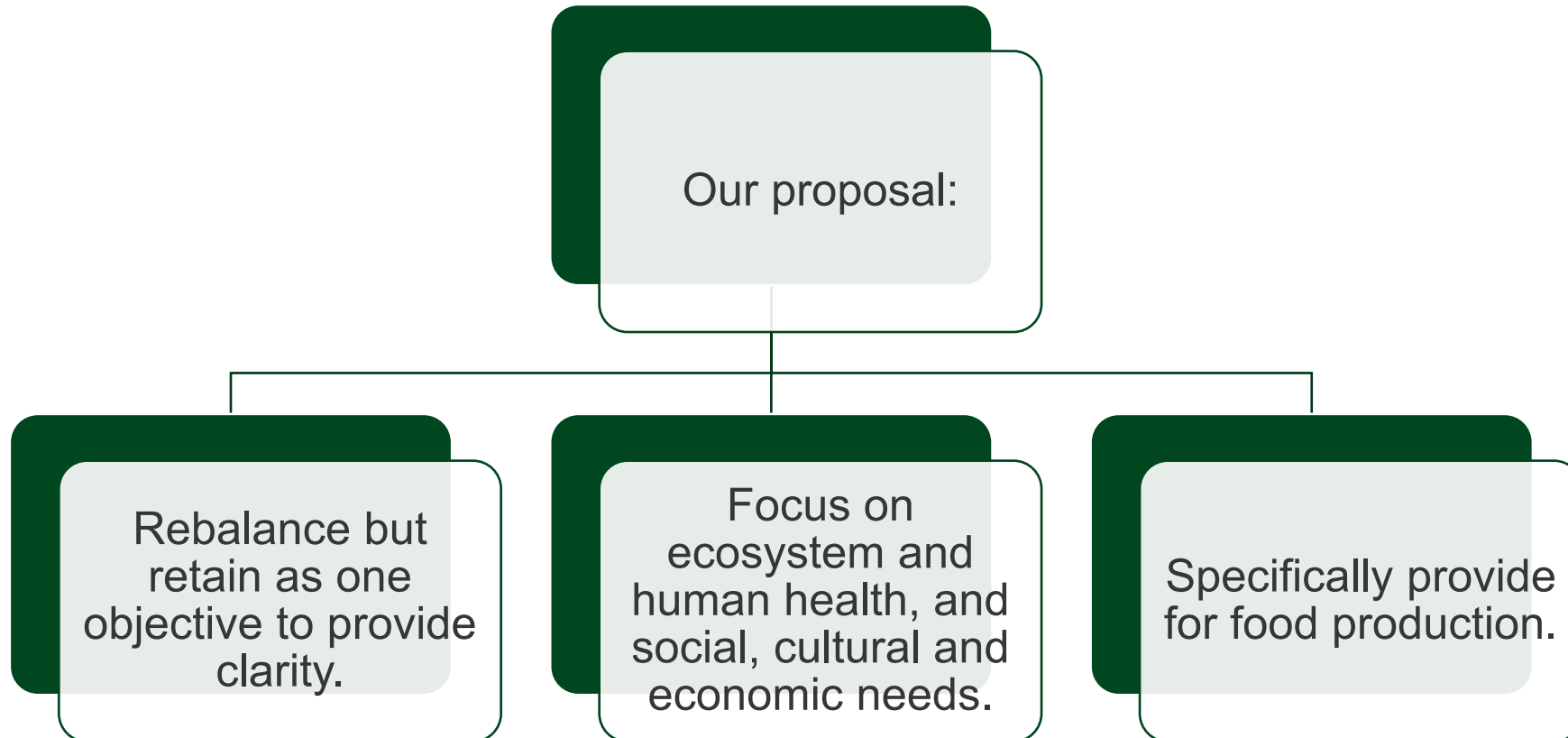


Questions on the consultation process?

Key changes being proposed

Rebalancing the NPS-FM

Consultation proposal: Replace the single environmental objective with a set of balanced objectives



Te Mana o te Wai

Consultation options:

- Option 1: Remove hierarchy of obligations and clarify how Te Mana o te Wai applies
- Option 2: Reinstate Te Mana o te Wai provisions from 2017
- Option 3: Remove Te Mana o te Wai provisions



Indicative position:

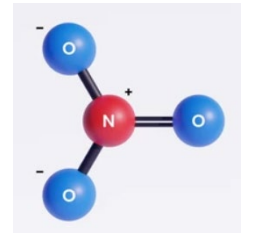
- Retain
- Remove hierarchy
- Clarify application
- Amend the Objective

National Objective framework (NOF)



Problems with Current NOF

- No flexibility
- contaminant focused (doesn't recognize non-contaminant 'drivers')
- uncertain science



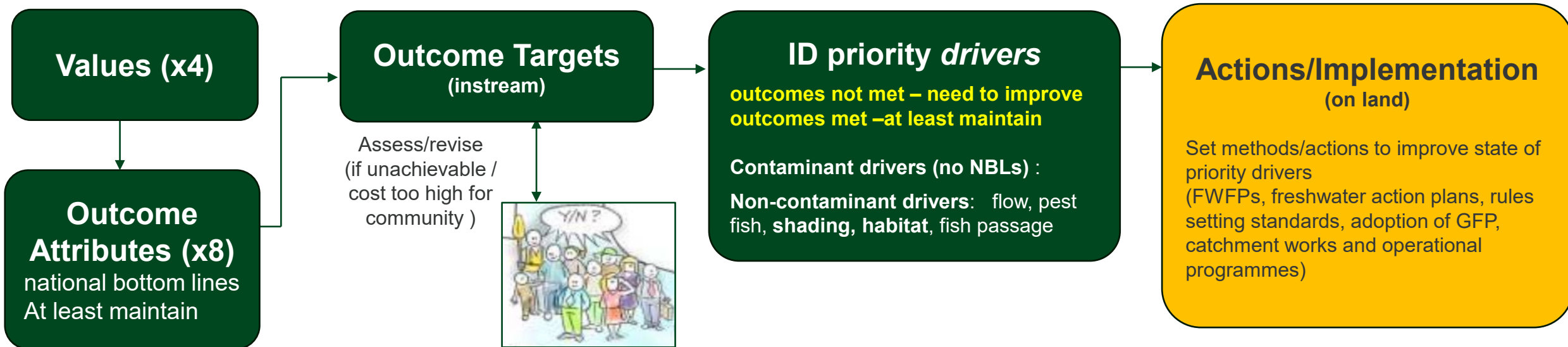
Government consultation proposal:

- Introduce flexibility for councils (DairyNZ agree with need for some flexibility):
- **values** and **attributes** not compulsory
- Allow some deviation from national defined numeric thresholds

DairyNZ (with Team Ag input) proposal:

Increased flexibility, pragmatism and recognition of the importance of **non-contaminant** drivers

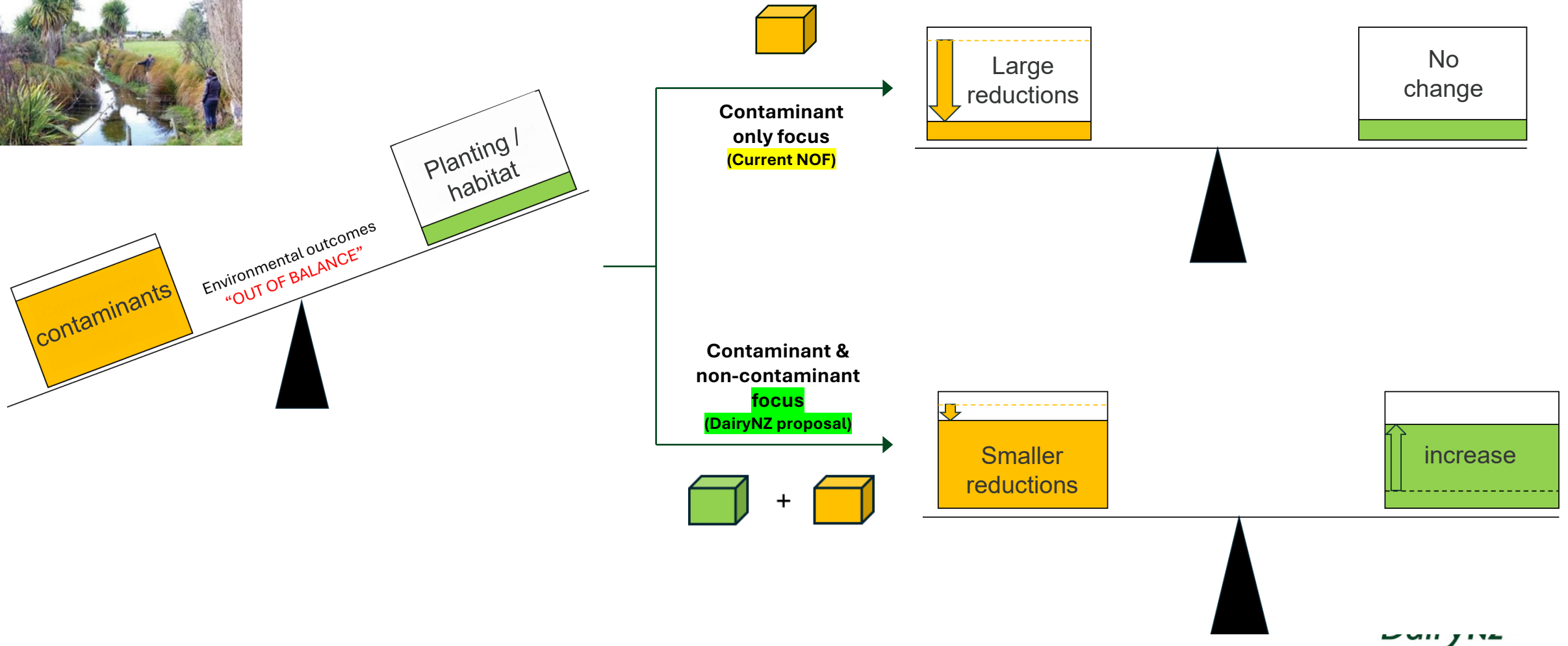
- shift away from **contaminant-based limits** to manage for **freshwater outcomes**
- Focus on implementation - supporting landowners to implement priority actions on farm



Importance of managing both the negative and positive drivers of stream health



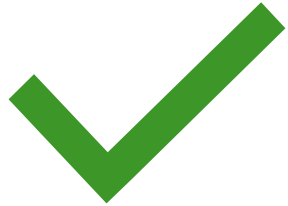
“...manipulation of vegetation in riparian (streamside) areas is seen as the most effective means for restoring stream ecosystems in agricultural catchments” (NIWA 1997)”



Questions on the national framework?

Priority activities

Water Security and Storage



Proposal:

Introduce a new NPS-FM objective or policy to prioritise water security and climate resilience.

Develop national standards to permit off-stream water storage (e.g., farm ponds), reducing environmental impact and consent requirements.



DairyNZ Initial Position:

Support – working with Irrigation NZ on standards.

Large scale irrigation infrastructure enabled in RMA.

Wetlands



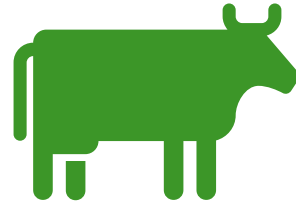
Proposals:

Clarifying Wetland Definitions

Enabling farming activities (fencing, irrigation and water storage) around wetlands

Remove wetland mapping requirements for councils by 2030

Remove requirements for stock exclusion for extensive beef and deer farming.



DairyNZ Initial Position:

Support pathways for 'low risk' or ancillary farming activities (e.g., fencing).

Enable restoration and construction of wetlands.

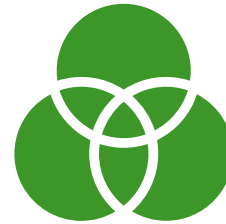
No position on enabling extensive beef and deer access.

N Cap – 190kg per ha limit



Consultation questions:

1. Minor amendments: providing receipts and changing the reporting date
2. Repeal the 190 kilogram per hectare nitrogen limit



Options for DairyNZ:

1. Remove the N-cap entirely and require FWFPs to demonstrate efficient use.
2. Retain the N-cap but improve reporting requirements as suggested.

Other Topics



Commercial Vege Growing

Consultation proposal: Enabling provisions for vegetable growing.

DairyNZ indicative position: Enable all primary sector land uses. Focus on effects.



Source Water Risk Management Areas (SWRMA)

Consultation proposal: Map SWRMAs 1, 2 and 3 within five years, identify zones of contamination risk, publish maps.

DairyNZ indicative position: Map only SWRMA1, Identify take areas.



Fish Passage

Consultation proposal: Remove unnecessary reporting detail, match current practices, ease regs for temporary structures.

DairyNZ indicative position: Support.

Discussion and Q+A



Discussion: DairyNZ indicative positions?



Things outside the consultation process we should be considering?



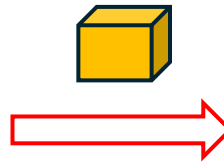
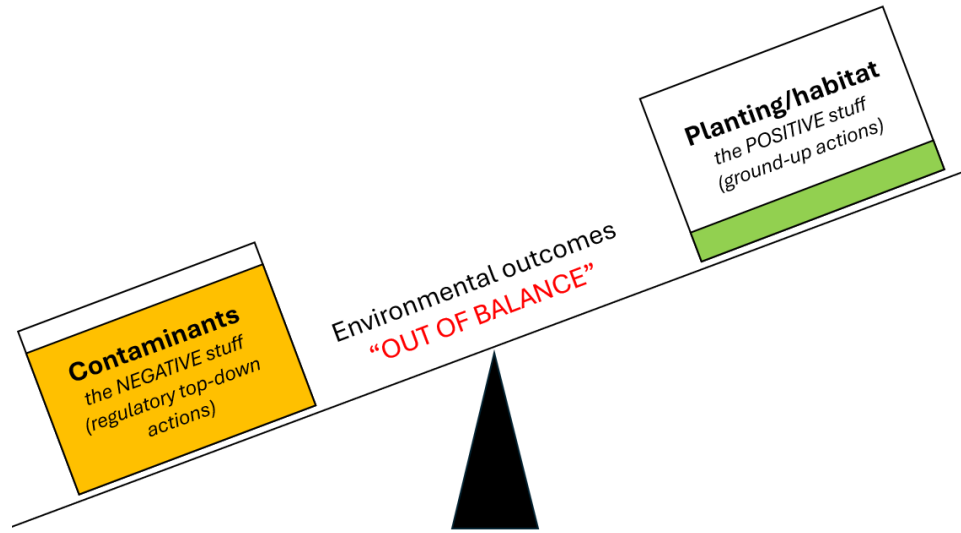
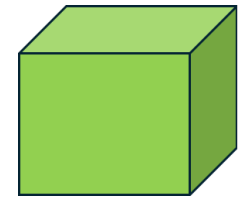
What we're doing and what you can do to submit.



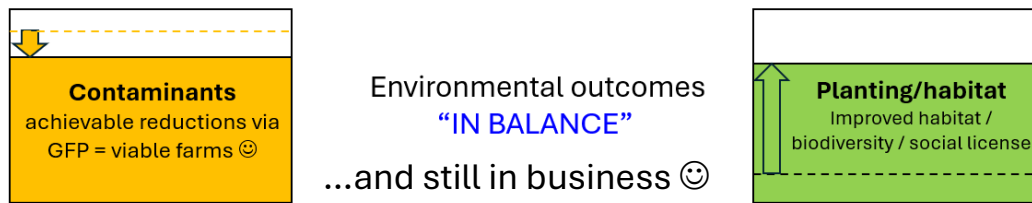
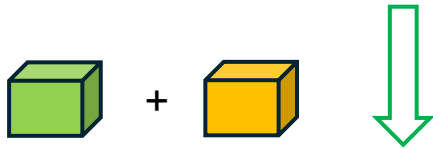
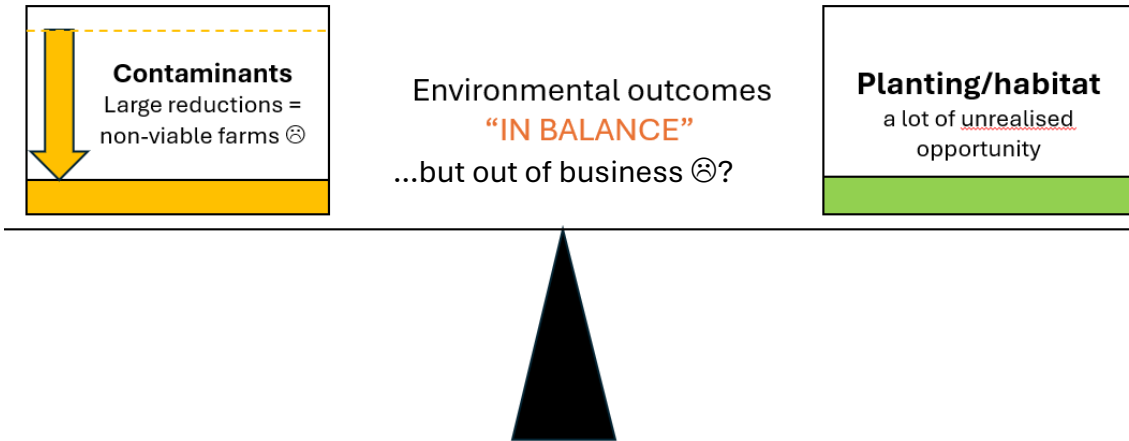
Ngā mihi nui
Thank you

Dairynz 

The 'green box' – not just a nice to have; it's essential for environmentally sustainable productive catchments



- Regulatory approach relies on setting contaminant limits / rules to achieve targets that may or may not improve stream health
- **Large reductions** often require land use change ☹️



- Management approach that recognizes importance of collective action to address impacts from land use
- Opportunity to significantly improve health / biodiversity in productive catchments via restorative actions
- Achieve 'balance' via **achievable reductions** in contaminants = viable farming future ☺️