



HEARING STREAM 3 CLIMATE CHANGE - AGRICULTURAL EMISSIONS

Section 42A reporting officer – Jerome Wyeth

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Agricultural Emissions: Provisions in this topic

- **Policy CC.5:** Reducing agricultural emissions – regional plans
- **Policy CC.13:** Managing agricultural emissions – consideration
- **Policy CC.15:** Improve rural resilience to climate change – non-regulatory
- **Method CC.5:** Confirm regional response to reducing agricultural GHG emissions
- **Method CC.8:** Programme to support low-emissions and climate-resilient agriculture – non-regulatory methods



Key issues raised in submissions – agricultural emissions

- Approx. 80 original submissions and 78 further submission points on topic
- Whether Change 1 should address agricultural emissions and the potential to duplicate or conflict with national policy and initiatives
- Strong opposition from the primary sector
- Divergent views on agricultural emissions target in Policy CC.5:
 - Request that it be strengthened (i.e. to reduce emissions)
 - Delete as it is unfairly targeting the agriculture sector in the region
 - Unclear how it will be implemented and potential impacts on the sector
- Policy CC.13 – unclear how it will be implemented, will have significant impact on the sector and rural communities, policy should not apply to territorial authorities
- General support for non-regulatory Policy CC.15 and Method CC.8 but questions from TA's about responsibility



Key recommended amendments – section 42A report

- Amendments to Policy CC.5 to:
 - Achieve a reduction in agricultural emissions to support the emission reduction targets in Objective CC.3
 - Increasing the flexibility as to how the policy will be implemented through a future regional plan change
- Recommend deleting Policy CC.13 on the basis the costs of implementing this policy are likely to be greater than the anticipated benefits for reducing agricultural emissions until Policy CC.5 is given effect to
- Amendments to Method CC.5 to better support the implementation of Policy CC.5
- Minor amendments to clarify the intent of Policy CC.15 and Method CC.8 and for both provisions are considered under the standard RMA Schedule 1 process



Key outstanding areas of contention in submitter evidence

- Strong feedback from the primary sector to withdrawal Change 1 provisions on agricultural emissions
- Agriculture should be removed from Objective CC.3 and therefore Policy CC.5 is unnecessary
- Policy CC.5 should be deferred until national policy is settled (and Method CC.5 should not set a timeframe for implementation)
- Insufficient justification to justify the regulatory approach for agricultural emissions in Policy CC.5
- Better recognise horticulture, food security and rural water resilience

Key recommendations in rebuttal evidence

- Retain Change 1 provisions on agricultural GHG emissions on the basis that:
 - There is a need to act now
 - Agriculture is 34% of regional emissions
 - Policy CC.5 and Method CC.5 intended to work in tandem will ensure plan provisions complement national approach
 - Future full review of RPS is uncertain
- Amendments to Method CC.8 to make it clear improving rural resilience includes food security and rural water resilience

