

Feedback on Action for Healthy Waterways

The Fertiliser Association agrees that healthy waterways are essential for supporting productive, sustainable land use, generating economic wealth and promoting wellbeing for all New Zealanders.

Key messages

Align environmental, social, cultural, and economic interests



Build on existing industry actions and be phased appropriately



Maintain regional flexibility to set water quality targets by catchment to balance environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts



- Position farm plans at the heart of decision making for farmers and growers
- Align regulatory schemes with existing assurance programmes
- Kickstart progress on FEPs with 10 hours of free advice to each farmer and grower
- Avoid inadvertently locking in existing land uses due to desire to restrict further intensification

- Phase in requirements for FEPs so quality plans can be delivered
- Establish thresholds for requirements to develop FEPs
- Build adviser capability to match regional long term needs
- Ensure that water and greenhouse gases are considered side-by-side when providing advice

- Support te Mana o te Wai as a holistic approach to water management rather than as a hierarchy for decision making
- Give councils flexibility to set locally derived nutrient limits for each catchment
- Identify priority catchments based on ecosystem health, not just nitrogen
- Drive continuous improvement through adoption of GMPs and audited FEPs