
MEMORANDUM

TO: WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL DRAFT FUTURE PROOF HEARINGS
SUB-COMMITTEE

FROM: LEANNE ROBERTS, HORTICULTURE NZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT FUTURE PROOF STRATEGY

DATE: 20 MARCH 2024

The purpose of this memo is to support our oral submission to the Waikato Region Draft Future Proof Strategy.

Horticulture NZ has concerns that the Draft Future Proof Strategy (DFPS) is creating an artificial and non-evidence based productive/food production value separation of land use class (LUC) 1 land from LUC 2 and 3 land.

Horticulture NZ believes that the DFPS needs to be consistent in its approach and terminology of LUC 1, 2 and 3 land as it directed in the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPSHPL) which came into effect 17 October 2022 where the productive capacity of LUC 1, 2 and 3 land is considered as a single entity.

Waikato Regional Council has not given effect to the NPSHPL or completed the mapping of land as is required by the NPSHPL and therefore it is inappropriate to be providing direction on what can occur on LUC 1, 2 and 3 land and to propose there are different values between the land classes. This gives a false sense of what is able to occur on these different land use classes without having an understanding of what and where these classes are in the region and the food production activities it supports.

Growers use all classes of land to achieve an effective rotation, land availability is the primary driving factor ahead of land use class – land that has been available as primary production land is becoming less available as development in Auckland and Waikato regions increases.

Horticulture NZ challenges the evidential basis for this approach. In developing the DFPS, What growers and soil scientists have been talked to. This region recognises the Pukekohe Hub as an area of nationally significant food production. The majority of the growing land in the HUB is

LUC 2 and 3. In support of our submission Horticulture NZ has included as appendices previous evidence from Jordyn Landers, Vance Hodgson and Rhys Hill to support our submission.

Horticulture NZ notes that the WRPS and various district plans that give effect to the WRPS do not distinguish between LUC 1, 2 and 3 land so question how this approach can be taken forward in the DFPS. Horticulture NZ is mindful that this is a foundational document that could inform other planning documents it is important to ensure the NPSHPL is appropriately reflected in the DFPS.

Horticulture NZ would welcome the opportunity to take the DFPS committee on growers visits to better understand the needs of horticulture and the evidential based spatial arrangement of the food production across LUC 1, 2 and 3 in the region.

Nāku noa, Nā

Leanne Roberts

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Horticulture NZ