



Horizons Regional Council Plan Change 2

Horizons Regional Council Plan Change 2 process, is a partial plan change aimed at improving the workability of the One Plan provisions that manage Intensive Farming Land Uses (IFLU) within the following Target Water Management Subzones:

- Hokio 1a
- Other Upper Manawatū
- Rangitīkei
- Upper Manawatu
- West Coast Lakes and Horowhenua

From the HortNZ perspective, there was issue with the use of Overseer in the One Plan and the requirement for growers to comply with Overseer generated numbers in a table within the plan (Table 14.2) to meet consent requirements.

Through the later part of the PC2 process HortNZ sort an alternative pathway for growers to use, as Overseer has significant limitations for use in assessing Nitrogen leaching in commercial vegetable production.

The Court recognised these limitations and did explore two options for alternative pathways, one being the use of a Nitrogen Risk Assessment Tool (NRAT) and the other being a specified Reduction Pathway (SRP) which requires commercial vegetable growers to demonstrate a 35% reduction in Nitrogen leaching over a baseline period.

While the NRAT option was preferred, the Court ultimately deemed the NRAT option as out of scope but agreed to including the SRP option as an alternative to Overseer and table 14.2.

The Court has noted that "It is clear to us that there will need to be further changes to the One Plan to more appropriately accommodate CVG. Unfortunately, those changes will have to follow at a later date and be made in a procedurally correct manner. All we can do at this juncture is note the Court's disappointment that more than 10 years after the Court identified this issue, there has been little progress."¹

HortNZ's aim was to achieve an alternative pathway and has done this through having the SRP pathway included in the Plan. However, the Court's comments above make it clear that further work is required, but this will need to occur in a separate process.

¹ [2026 NZEnvC 131 Te Rūnanga o Raukawa v Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council \(002\).pdf](#)

HortNZ will continue to work closely with Horizons Regional Council on the aspects the Court have directed and will work with growers as we move towards implementation.

Next Steps: receive the amended Plan from Horizons Regional Council

There needs to be a Council decision on when to make the Plan operative. HortNZ will let growers know as soon as we are aware of when this will be.

HortNZ is working closely with Product Group's and other stakeholders to understand the implications of this decision, and what next steps look like.