

Plan Change 2

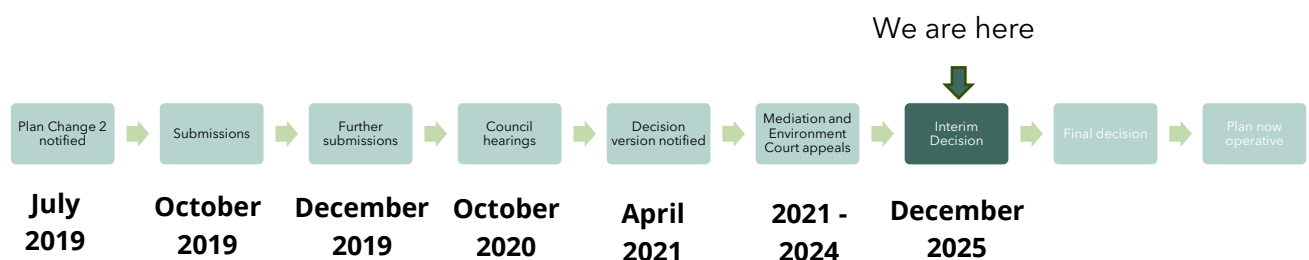
Manawatū-Whanganui Horizons Regional Council | December 2025

What is Plan Change 2?

This plan change concerns provisions which manage nutrient loss from existing intensive farming land uses (dairy farming, commercial vegetable growing, cropping, and intensive sheep and beef) in target water management sub-zones.

The plan change seeks to provide a consent pathway for growers and farmers who do not meet Table 14.2 and to emphasise Good Management Practices.

The interim decision for Horizons Plan Change 2 has been released by the Environment Court. This is not a final decision, but the first step towards receiving a final decision. There is still some work to be undertaken by Horizons Regional Council before a final decision is released.



Key changes /provisions

- Introduction of a controlled activity specified reduction pathway for nitrogen loss from existing intensive activities, such as commercial vegetable growing (CVG).
- For CVG, a 35% reduction from a 2012/2013 baseline in modelled nitrogen loss must be achieved within 2 years of PC2 becoming operative, for the operation to get consent as a controlled activity.
- The controlled activity specified reduction pathway (SRP) will be achievable for most CVG operations, but may not be achieved for brassica dominant rotations.
- Operations unable to achieve a controlled activity SRP consent will need to apply for a discretionary consent.
- The introduction of a Nitrogen Risk Assessment Tool (NRAT) has been disallowed as is deemed out of scope.
- The Environment Court made it clear there was no scope to delete Overseer from PC2 completely.

The Environment Court has recognised that “it is indisputable that crop rotation is an essential component of CVG and not giving consideration to maintaining food security would be fanciful. While we are very concerned to ensure that CVG has a workable pathway towards consenting, we are not satisfied that the addition of these policies particularly assists in achieving that.”

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Plan Change 2 - Horizons Regional Council](#)
- Keep an eye on HortNZ's website [Manawatū-Whanganui | Horticulture New Zealand – Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa](#)
- Leanne Roberts – leanne.roberts@hortnz.co.nz