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**Committee** Rural Services Wairarapa Committee  
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## **Regional Action Plan for the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek the Committee's approval of the Regional Action Plan prepared for the Wellington Region as part of the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.

### **2. Background**

The Dairying and Clean Streams Accord (the Accord) was prepared by the Fonterra Co-operative Group, regional councils, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It was signed by all parties in May 2003. Neil Clarke, Chairman, Regional Affairs Committee, Local Government New Zealand, was the signatory for regional councils.

The Accord provides a framework for actions to promote sustainable dairy farming in New Zealand. It focuses on reducing the impacts of dairying on the quality of New Zealand streams, rivers, lakes, groundwater and wetlands. A priority for action in the Accord is for Fonterra and regional councils to develop regional action plans for the main dairying regions by June 2004.

### **3. Developing the Regional Action Plan**

The purpose of Regional Action Plans is to specify local commitments toward achieving the goal of the Accord and meeting the national performance targets, while taking into account local circumstances.

The performance targets in the Accord are:

1. Dairy cattle excluded from 50% of streams, rivers and lakes by 2007, 90% by 2012.
2. 50% of regular crossing points have bridges or culverts by 2007, 90% by 2012.
3. 100% of farm dairy effluent discharges to comply with resource consents and regional plans immediately.
4. 100% of dairy farms to have in place systems to manage nutrient inputs and outputs by 2007.

5. 50% of regionally significant wetlands to be fenced by 2005, 90% by 2007.

In October 2003, we formed a working group with Fonterra to start the preparation of a Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region. The group comprised Charlotte Rutherford of Fonterra, three staff from Greater Wellington (Tim Porteous, Helen Marr and Kirsten Forsyth), two members of the Shareholders' Council (John Coveny and John Monaghan) and Jo Taylor of Federated Farmers. Representatives of the farming community were at the meetings to provide a regional industry perspective. The plan we have prepared is broadly similar to those being prepared for other regions around the country.

The Executive Management Team discussed the last draft of the Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region at its meeting in March. Their comments have been incorporated in this final draft, which was agreed with Fonterra in April. The Plan is attached for your information.

#### **4. Strategic context**

An objective of Greater Wellington's strategic plan is to have clean and healthy rivers, streams and coasts. Working with the dairy industry to achieve this objective is consistent with policies in our regional plans to support industry initiatives and will complement our regulatory approach.

#### **5. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. **receive** the report; and
2. **note** the contents; and
3. **recommend** to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee that it approve the Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region.

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**Attachment 1:** Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region