Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan

Federated Farmers' response to Minute 5 of the Hearing Commissioners, containing alternative wording of proposed Rule 10.1A, provided by the Rural Advocacy Network:

Federated Farmers thanks the independent Hearing Commissioners for the opportunity to provide comment on the alternative wording of proposed Rule 10.1A, provided by the Rural Advocacy Network

Federated Farmers supports the proposed alternative wording (Rule 10.1A, Policy 5.5, Rule 10.1B, definition of Dryland Farming and definition of Low Intensity Irrigated Farming) in principle, consistent with our original submission (at page 10) in which we requested allowance for small areas of irrigation along the lines of plan change 5.

However, we retain the view that Proposed Plan Change 1, excluding any allowance for irrigation, is a considerable advance on the current situation where low intensity dryland farmers are subject to the so-called '10% Rule'.

If the wording proposed by the Rural Advocacy Network is adopted, the winter grazing thresholds in the definition of Low Intensity Irrigated Farming would need to be amended to account for land areas less than 100 ha. The allowance should be 10 ha for any property less than 100 ha, as requested in our submission (at page 6) and consistent with Plan Change 5.

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