

**THE NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT GAME
IN THE HORIZONS REGION.
THE ONE PLAN AND THE DAY-TO-DAY REALITY**

Greg Carlyon

Horizons Regional Council, Palmerston North

It is timely to reassess where the Manawatu-Wanganui region has got to with the management of nutrients over this past five years. Much has happened. The Regional Council has proposed the One Plan (a consolidated regulatory framework for sustainable management), heard evidence and released decisions. We now have the joy of the appeals phase.

But, in the real world, things carry on and there is a great deal of work in progress on nutrient management. The regional practice in relation to effluent management has changed markedly, and the shift to whole farm nutrient management planning is occurring. The development of new tools is also changing the way we manage nutrients. We are also acutely aware of the impacts our decision-making has on the wallet, the ratepayer, and the environment.

Discussions and debate needs to take place in the context of the science and what it is telling us. There are many views held on this but the one thing that is undeniable is that the effects of our decision-making over time is coming home to roost. We have an enormous challenge in the nutrient management space and it will only get bigger unless we make decisions sensitive to those impacts and adapt accordingly.

All the more important we share the common goal of growing sustainable agriculture within the region while we maintain and improve the quality of our water bodies. Naturally, the economy does not stop growing and the effects do not stop occurring if we dither.

This presentation explores those issues and updates industry professionals on what has occurred and what is to come in this space

Editor's Note: An extended manuscript was not submitted for this presentation.
