

# UPDATE ON POLICY ROLLOUT IN THE HAWKES BAY REGION

**Shane Gilmer**

*Hawkes Bay Regional Council, Napier*

The Hawkes Bay region has one third generation catchment plan that was developed under NPSFM 2011/14. This plan covers the Tukituki catchment and the focus of this discussion.

The policy requires landowners (among other things) to meet LUC based leaching rates for nitrogen and to have Farm Environment Management Plans (FEMP's).

The implementation of this policy has revealed challenges in the interpretation of policy and a wide gap between policy expectations and capacity and capability of this council, rural professionals and farmers to respond.

Extensive promotion of the policy requirements for FEMP's occurred over several years with financial incentives, focus groups, heavy engagement with rural professionals and advertising through the catchment. In spite of this the vast majority of landowners failed to obtain a FEMP early and were channelled through a regulatory gate by signing up with approved FEMP providers at or about the deadline date. We will talk about the learnings from this and the significant investment required if FEMP's become a regionwide or national requirement.

The learnings from this policy exercise have shaped the development of new policy processes, including the collaborative TANK (Tutaekuri, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro, Karamu catchments) to potentially avoid the problems we observed in the Tukituki. The potential solutions are not however without their own risks and challenges. Irrespective of the approach there is a significant gap in the capacity and capability of most parts of the system to respond. We will highlight these learnings.

**Editor's Note:** An extended manuscript has not been submitted for this presentation.