



Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Plan Change 1 Waikato and Waipa River Catchment

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Overview

- ▶ Equine sector agrees with the objective to improve water quality in the Waikato and Waipa catchments
- ▶ Equine sector agrees environmental impacts of the sector on water quality should be managed and reduced where appropriate

Overview continued

- ▶ There are a diverse range of equine activities with organisations focussed on equine sports
- ▶ Horses and equine properties have not been considered in the preparation of resource management plans including PC1
- ▶ Equine sector is comparatively small by land area in Waikato and Waipa catchments
- ▶ Horse owners see horses as athletes or companion animals and different from the production pastoral sector such as dairy and drystock
- ▶ No work had been done on what are equine environmental Good Farming Practices in NZ and little internationally

Evidence Overview

- ▶ Dr. Chris Rogers -
 - ▶ Horses are monogastric not rumen
 - ▶ Not bred for feed efficiency
 - ▶ Browser rather than grazer
- ▶ The assumptions behind the stock unit definition (SU) for horses is flawed - Dr Chris Rogers
- ▶ Issues with Overseer modelling for horses - Dr Debbie Care
- ▶ Management practices of equine properties have different considerations to other pastoral sectors
- ▶ Work has begun on developing a suite of Equine Good Farming Practices that will align with 21 Good Farming Practice Principles

Plan amendments

- ▶ Support and seek retention of the s42A recommendation that horse properties greater than 20ha are a permitted activity;

Subject to; -

- ▶ Amending to allow other classes of stock to be part of the property management so long as horses are the primary business
- ▶ Amending feedlot to specifically exclude the stabling or yarding of horses
- ▶ Registration of all properties greater than 2ha in size
- ▶ That stock units (SU) are not used as a proxy for horse numbers

Equine Sector Commitment

- ▶ To support further research on nutrient cycling in horses and how it affects the environment
- ▶ To support further research into the management of horse properties with respect to nutrient losses from those properties
- ▶ In conjunction with the primary equine sector groups develop and agree to Equine Good Environmental Farm Practices within the life of PC1

