

# PC1 – Concerns and Hopes

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# Specific concerns vs A way forward

- Overseer
- NRP
- Setbacks
- Cultivation

# 1. Overseer to determine NRP

- 3 issues

1. Doesn't model cropping accurately

- Assumes 600mm rooting depth
- Maize roots up to 1.8m

2. It is expensive to run across multiple enterprises

- \$200/ farm
- Seen another WRC land tax
- Maize contractors may have 20 blocks they own or lease

3. Need to have a good farm systems knowledge to make it work for the farmer



# 2. Nitrogen Reference Point

## 2 concerns

### 1. How it's determined

- Overseer accuracy?
- Rolling average or single year... most farmers don't have complete data

### 2. Potential penalty of those who already are using best practice

- Land value capped due to land use capped. Farmers will buy land from high N reference point farmers but not from good operators

# 3. Setbacks

- Applaud the aim to reduce sediment and P
- Setbacks work but distance is too blunt an instrument
- Soil loss mitigation needs to be driven by the FEP



## 4. Cultivation of slope.

- Once again, too blunt an instrument
- Needs to be driven by the FEP
  
- Aim needs to be clearly stated... i.e. No sediment in the stream. Leave it to the FEP and the farmer to achieve the outcome
  
- Range of tools...No till/minimum till, prairie strips/buffer strips, contour tillage, swales

# Possible way forward

- Overseer vs best management practice
- Rules (setbacks/cultivation of slope) vs Farm Environment Plans
- Farm system design

e.g. Dedicated cropping blocks within a dairy farm growing maize silage using reduced tillage systems, from effluent from the shed/feed pad and fed back to cows on feed pads

Thanks

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