

13 April 2015

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Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Submission on consultation document for Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2015/2025

The West Coast TBfree committee would like to make a submission regarding the Environment Canterbury consultation document for the Long Term Plan 2015/2025.

Our submission directly relates to the council's proposal on page 19 under the pest management section for council to cease collection of the regional share for the TB programme. As you are likely aware the West Coast has been ravaged by TB and for a long time we have had the dubious honour of having over half the infected herds in the country. However, with smart strategic investment and a collaborative funding arrangement, the TBfree programme is making steady progress throughout the West Coast and indeed New Zealand. Any reduction in the effort now is simply untenable and all possible efforts should be undertaken to ensure no reduction in the programme is made.

We believe there is good support for the investment in the programme from the wide sector of rural ratepayers including farmers who have been protected from TB but also general ratepayers who see the biodiversity benefits with a reduction in pests.

We acknowledge that it was time for a review of the TB programme funding model and how the future efforts in TB eradication are directed. However, as any new funding agreement will not be in place prior to the commencement of the 2015/16 year, it is really a case that the council collects the regional share for 2015/16 or the programme is reduced for that year.

Through discussions with our farming peers we are certain there is no appetite for a reduction in the TB control programme while the serious burden of TB infection is still present.

As a West Coast stakeholder group and your regional boundary neighbours, we submit your council should reconsider its position and commit to funding the TB programme for one more year in the Long Term Plan 2015/2025 to ensure the full vector control programme is carried out in the Canterbury region.

We do not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Katie Milne
West Coast TBfree Committee Chairman



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SUBMISSION ON CONSULTATION DOCUMENT LONG TERM PLAN 2015/2025

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. This letter and attachment constitutes OSPRI's submission on funding of the TB Plan, a long-running and successful collaboration between multiple funding parties, including regional councils on behalf of landowners.

We are requesting the council reconsider its draft decision to exclude TB funding from its plan for the 2015/16 year. We believe there are very good grounds for the council, on behalf of landowners in the area, to fund the TB programme for another year – after which a new funding methodology will take effect. We are seeking funding of \$925,000 toward an overall programme in the region (subject to confirmation) of \$7.1 million.

Our submission, at its heart, is very simple:

- the case for landowner funding of the TB Plan has never been stronger, based on the extensive funding review work conducted by a stakeholder group (including regional council representation);
- the only way the well-justified landowner funding share can be currently collected is through the council;
- funding of the TB Plan guarantees a very significant co-investment in the region by other funders;
- it is recognised that councils are unlikely to be the collection agency in future – consistent with the funding review recommendations, but a new approach cannot unfortunately apply until 1 July 2016 alongside implementation of a new TB Plan.

We are aware that some councils are concerned about whether or not other councils are funding, and whether or not OSPRI's approach to managing the programme in 2015/16 will be fair to all funders. We will be fair, and explain the approach in our submission.

The TBfree programme has enjoyed, and continues to enjoy, long-running support from councils. We appreciate that support and hope you can look positively on further funding support for 2015/16. We would like to be heard at your oral hearing, in support of our submission and look forward to discussing our request with you. Please contact Danny Templeman in the first instance regarding our submission

Stu Hutchings
Acting Chief Executive