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13 April 2015

Freepost 1201 Environment Canterbury PO Box 345 Christchurch 8140

Submission on Consultation Document for Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2015/2025

The TBfree South Canterbury Working Group appreciates the opportunity to submit on the Environment Canterbury Consultation Document for the Long Term Plan 2015/2025.

The committee operates as a volunteer stakeholder representative group for OSPRI New Zealand which oversees the TBfree New Zealand programme. Our members represent the South Canterbury dairy, beef and deer sectors alongside Federated Farmers membership.

This submission relates directly to the pest management section of the discussion document where council intends on ending its collection of the regional contribution towards vector control for the national TB scheme. The committee accepts that in line with the review of funding for the TB scheme that councils will not collect this rate in the future and agree this statement should be part of the discussion document. However, we submit council should collect the rate for the 2015/2016 year to ensure a comprehensive vector programme be undertaken next year in Canterbury.

South Canterbury farmers are starting to see the benefits of the vast amount of possum control and ferret operations seen in the area over the past few decades. This progress has seen a number of operations being able to be ceased in the Hunter Hills area over the past 24 months, TB testing requirements easing last year for the Makenzie country farmers, and a large amount of eradication area proposed for the 2015/2016 year. This is testament to a well-structured programme which is giving value for money. This progress was only a pipe dream for many farmers a few years ago and as such any let up in the TB programme is not acceptable to farmers who have invested so much to get to this point. Farmers pay the majority of the regional contribution and are happy to pay this rate for one further year while our industries work through the future of the TB programme.

Whatever the collection method post 2015/2016, farmers now or in the future do not want to see a reduction in the investment directed to controlling TB until the risk of the disease has been eradicated. There is no chance an alternative source of funding will be implemented prior to the commencement of the 2015/16 financial year, so either the money is collected under the existing agreement or there is a short fall in the vector control budget for next year meaning there is a high risk of important work not being done due to the lack of regional share.

Other South Island regions are funding the transition year to ensure their TB control programmes are not compromised in anyway and we feel we should ensure that we are doing our part and having a consistent approach across the island.

Conclusion

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We submit council should reconsider its position on collection of the regional contribution toward the TB plan for 2015/16 and ensure a complete programme is able to undertaken in the region. We acknowledge the funding model will be different post this transition funding year and there will be no collection for TB control via Environment Canterbury.

We wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Paddy Boyd Chairman, South Canterbury TBfree Working Group 13 April 2015

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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