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

The Tasman TBfree committee wishes to submit on the consultation document for Environment Canterbury Long Term Plan 2015/2025. Although we are not rate payers in the region, we are farmers who trade and work with landowners throughout the Canterbury region and feel we need to urge the council to reconsider its decision to cease funding towards the TB national pest management plan. We feel this decision could potentially affect us as many of our stock are either purchased or grazed in Canterbury throughout parts of their life. We also contribute to a national scheme through local rates, industry levies and taxes.

The strength of the TB plan has been the national view and the collaborative way, landowners, industry and central government have worked together to ensure a highly successful TB programme. This programme has a wide range of beneficiaries through protection of the agricultural industry and the biodiversity benefits pest reduction brings to native flora and fauna.

We appreciate council has made this decision in line with the Stakeholder Steering Group (SSG) funding review which keeps land owners as a beneficiary of the TB plan, but removes council as a collector of this money. As you are aware the shares and contributions by other parties as agreed by the SSG have not been agreed upon therefore unless council collects a regional contribution, the programme will be reduced for the coming year. We urge council to reconsider its position and prevent this happening by continuing the collection of the regional component of the vector control programme.

We firmly believe rural rate payers throughout New Zealand not only support the TB programme but are also happy to pay their share. Canterbury has benefitted and progressed markedly with TB control and something we should not reduce, even for one year.

We submit as Tasman District Council has, to commit to funding the TB programme for one more year in the Long Term Plan to ensure the full vector control programme is carried out in the Canterbury region.

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

Roy Bensemann  
Chairman, Tasman TBfree Committee