

Technical progress update – key messages on:

- 1) Dryland farming related information
- 2) Deferral of water takes review issue

Ned Norton (Technical Lead – Ecan)

Hurunui Waiau Zone Committee Meeting
20 Nov 2017 Waiau

1) Dryland farming related info

- 1) Work by HDLG progressing – to ZC on 11 Dec.
 - Inform what is “normal dryland development”?
 - Typical nutrient increases expected from that.

2) Estimating potential for dryland forage cropping.

- Forage cropping is key concern with deciding how to permit “normal dryland development”.
- Some form of constraint on how much, is likely to be part of permitted activity description.
- Tech team drafted estimate of potential area but other constraints being assessed by SSG members – to come end Nov.
- When area estimate agreed – tech team can estimate N increase and assess env. effects.

What does it mean?...

- **In Hurunui:** this informs by quantifying possible N increase from “normal dryland development” needed to be offset elsewhere.
- **In Waiau:** this informs by adding to quantifying N increase and env. effects of proposed development – thus informs consideration of Waiau WQ limits.

3) Sources of “manageable” P loss – key message

- Available info, while uncertain, provides a level of comfort that gains from the most manageable sources of P loss (point sources & diffuse sources from irrigated agriculture) could help to achieve catchment P limits while permitting “normal dryland development”.

[particularly if a level of comfort can be achieved around constraint on total amount of dryland forage cropping]

2) Deferral of water takes review – outstanding questions...

1) On climate change...

- We would expect our assessed environmental effects of delaying implementation of HWRRP minimum flows (already presented) to be similar or slightly worse in the next 15 years.

2) On Cawthron flow-setting research...

- Adds to the existing basket of assessment tools.
- If used as part of full review of HWRRP minimum flows today, would likely result in biophysical assessment that higher flows would increase carrying capacity for trout.
- Process then subject to all usual consideration of implications across all values.