

**Meeting:** Strategy and Policy Committee

**Meeting Date:** 20 February 2024

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## **Presentations**

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**Agenda Item 7.1      National Policy Statement -  
Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)**

**Presentation - Environment and Wildlife Partnership Proposal** **2**

**Agenda Item 7.2      Freshwater Programme - BOP  
Federated Farmers**

**Presentation - Freshwater Programme - BOP Federated Farmers** **9**

**Agenda Item 9.2      Freshwater Policy Programme:  
Timeframes**

**Presentation - Freshwater Policy Programme: Timeframes** **15**

Better protection of our  
environment and wildlife  
is **URGENTLY needed!**

This is not just  
a Council issue ...

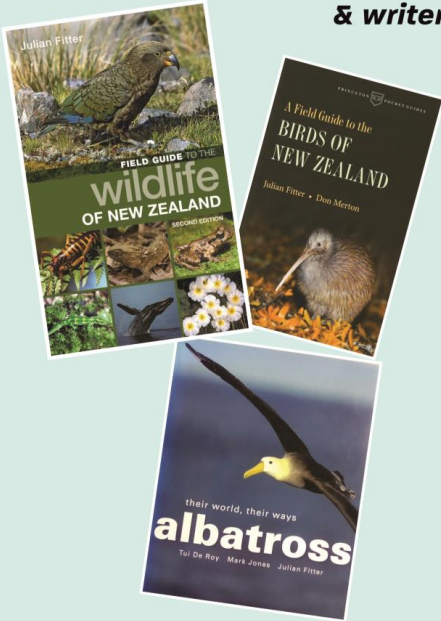
**WE ALL**  
have  
skin in the  
game

**Proposal:**  
Environment & Wildlife Partnership, BOP

JULIAN FITTER

*From my conservation experience, I can confidently say:  
We will work more effectively, when we plan collectively ...*

**Naturalist,  
conservationist,  
& writer**



**NZ INVOLVEMENT:**

**MOWS:**

Chair, 2008-2023. (Five Environment Plans)

**Bay Conservation Alliance:**

Creator & Chair, 2017- current.

**Friends of Galapagos NZ:**

Instigator, Chair 2007 – 2016, current committee member

**Bittern Conservation Trust:**

Chair, 2023 - Current

**WORLDWIDE INVOLVEMENT:**

**Galapagos Conservation Trust:**

(UK) Ambassador, current. Founding Chair, 1994-96

**Falklands Conservation:**

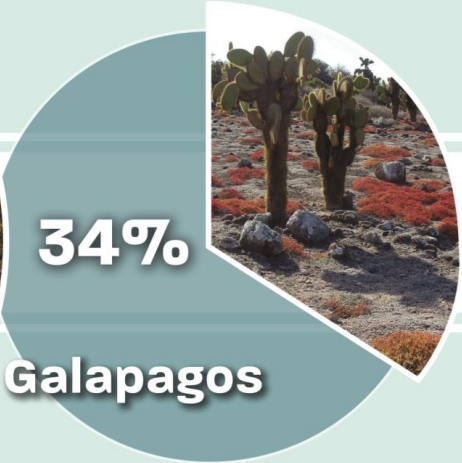
(UK/FI) Founding Trustee, current Vice-President

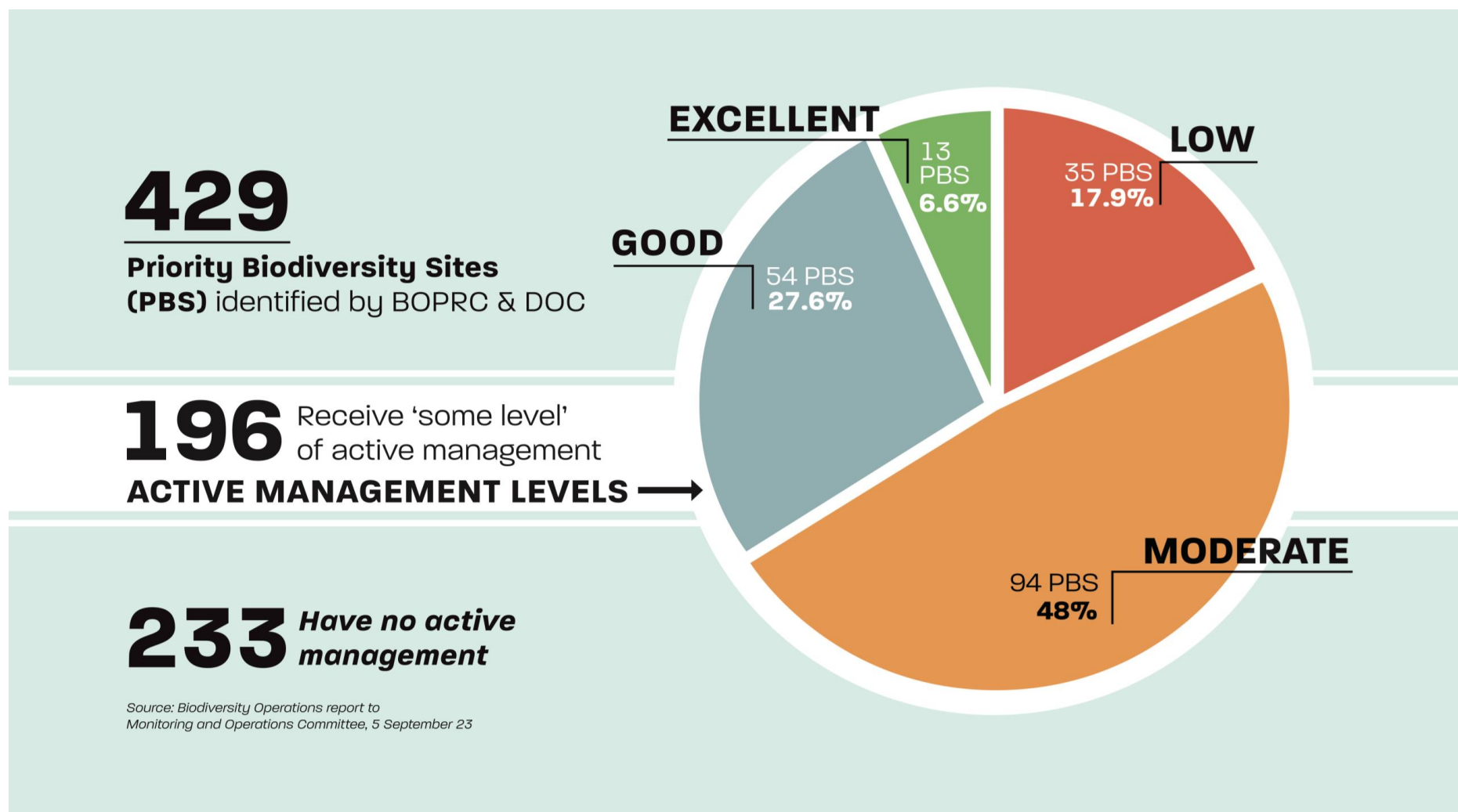




**ENDEMIC SPECIES**

Aotearoa has over 100,000 native species - and 80% only live here.  
**That's REALLY worth protecting!**







**47** Priority Biodiversity Sites  
Have been identified as Category One

**53%** Of them receive  
**no level of management**

**25%** Of them receive  
**Some level of management**

**ONLY 13%** Of them receive  
**'Good or Excellent Management'**

## Environment & Wildlife Partnership, BOP

### IN A NUTSHELL

#### Who's at the table?

Councils, DOC, Iwi, Environmental NGOs, NZTA, Kiwi Rail, Agricultural & Horticultural businesses, BOP Industries...

#### What is the aim?

- ◆ Utilise and involve partners' combined experiences, knowledge base and skills
- ◆ Collectively create a long term sustainable environmental plan using BOPRC/DOC Priority Biodiversity Sites
- ◆ Develop additional funding streams: Industry, Biodiversity Credits, BOP Funding Partnership...
- ◆ Be **Results-on-the-ground** focused. It's all about results, not KPI's

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skin in the  
game



## Environment & Wildlife Partnership, BOP

### STAGE ONE | FOUNDATION WORK: RESEARCHING, DEVELOPING & MARKETING

**Strategy Planning:**

Discussions with BOPRC / DOC

**Presentation Development:**

Aimed at industry & other potential partners/funders

**Programme Development Research:**

Discussions with potential partners for their input into the programme

**Stage One Budget:** \$25,000



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# FRESHWATER PLAN CHANGE PROCESS



FFNZ challenges and opportunities





## AGENDA

- Who is Federated Farmers
- Trajectory of change
- Te Mana o te Wai – implications for farming
- Pātai



FEDERATED FARMERS





## WHO ARE WE?

- Independent rural advocacy organisation
- Rural voice in policy and advocacy
- Adding value to the business of farming for our members
- Over 12,000 members across New Zealand
- Over **620 active members** in the Bay of Plenty Region

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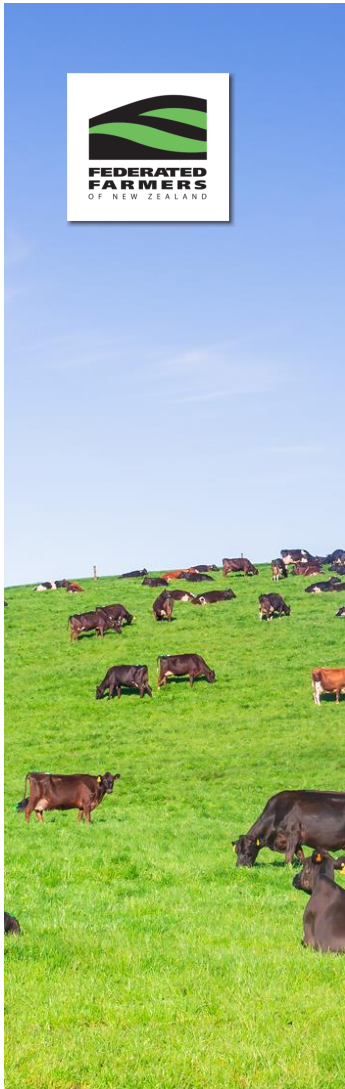
FEDERATED FARMERS





## TRAJECTORY OF CHANGE

- Acknowledge that new Government has committed to replacing the NPS-FM.
- This does not address the pressure farmers are feeling right now.
- Support a risk based regulatory approach coupled with an implementation mechanism (such as farm plans).
- Retrofit the work BOPRC has already done.



## TE MANA O TE WAI – IMPLICATIONS FOR FARMING

- TMoTW should be implemented through clear policy and rule direction in plans.
- Opportunity with rebalancing the hierarchy of priorities to ensure implementation is not left to individual consent applications.

*Thank you for your time.*

Pātai?

0800  
327  
646 | **FED**  
FARM  
.ORG.NZ



# Freshwater Policy Programme - Timeframes

Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting  
20 February 2024



# Purpose

- To reset the timeframe for notification of freshwater related RPS and regional plan changes



# The Challenging Decision

- **Government amended the timeframe  
31 Dec 2024 → 31 Dec 2027**
- **Signaled replacement of NPSFM &  
Freshwater regulations in 18-24 months**
- **Lots of pros and cons to consider**
- **Four options were assessed – March 2025,  
September 2025, December 2026,  
December 2027**





## September 2025 is recommended

### Main reasons

- ✓ the expiry of ~600 water take consents in 2026
- ✓ to address water quality issues quicker
- ✓ prior to local government elections
- ✓ making best use of investment to date
- ✓ delivering a more streamlined plan
- ✓ the importance of maintaining momentum



# Why a plan change?

- **Economic benefit**
  - free up water resources for development
  - provide certainty to partners in their future investment
  - partners want one
  - making it easier to operate – clearer on permitted activities
  - most efficient use of Councils investment to date (avoid rework) e.g 10 years and 5 national policy direction changes

# Why a plan change? To address critical issues



## Environment

- Declining water quality (estuaries, some lakes)
- Improving water quantity information (clearer limits, some cases make more water available)
- Increasing pressure on resources
- Impacts of climate change



## Community

- Community aspirations & involvement to date
- Partners want clarity (especially Councils & tangata whenua (e.g PC9)
- Changing demographics – urban/rural
- Loss of kai
- Economic growth balanced with the environment



## Legislative

- Required under the Resource Management Act & National Policy Statement for Freshwater Mgmt
- Old plan - need to improve plan effectiveness (sorting issues raised from consents and simplifying policy)
- Core Council responsibility
- We now have improved data





# At stake/Considerations

Need to address  
freshwater issues &  
community  
expectations

More efficient  
management of water  
use & making more  
water available

A large number of  
consents  
expiring/renewals 2026  
(Councils want  
certainty)

Need to maintain  
momentum

Cost effective – large  
investment to date,  
rework will be needed if  
timeframes are  
extended too long

Opportunity for more  
targeted engagement

Time to consider  
options, complete s32  
evaluations, assess  
feedback

Uncertainty about  
timing and content of  
national policy and  
regulation changes



# Options

Option	Notification Date	Description
1	March 2025	Carry on with the current programme, applying just a 3 month delay due to delayed approval of draft plan change release.
2	September 2025	Notify at the end of this local government triennium. Likely to be ahead of finalised amendments to the NPSFM and national freshwater regulations.
3	December 2026	Hands the baton to the newly elected Council. Amendments to the NPSFM and national freshwater regulations are likely to be gazetted.
4	December 2027	The latest possible date.



# Recommendation

- **Option 2 – September 2025**

- ✓ **Notified prior to water take consent expiries in 2026**
- ✓ **Notified prior to local government elections**
- ✓ **Maintains momentum and currency (most cost effective)**
- ✓ **Introduces new water quantity allocation limits and water quality improvements sooner rather than later (provides certainty for partners/stakeholders)**
- ✗ **Risk of misalignment with national freshwater changes – address via variation (if needed). We will have line of sight changes given strong relationships and insights.**

# What the national freshwater changes may be about

- Protection based framework



Use enabling framework





# Next Steps

Following a timeframe decision -

1. Work programme reset
2. Revisit some policy options & redraft
3. Approve & release draft plan change
4. Assess feedback and complete s.32 evaluations
5. Further policy consideration and decisions
6. Finalisation & notification upon approval