SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK FARMING: A NEW ZEALAND PERSPECTIVE

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WHAT I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DISCUSS TODAY

1. What are the major drivers affecting grazing livestock farmers/production?
2. What are the consequences / impacts major that you emphasize?
3. How are different stakeholders responding at different levels? Producers / Syndicates / Academia / Government / Public Opinion / etc.
4. What is the expected development of livestock in pastoral/grazing areas?

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DRIVERS

Global:

- Consumer and market requirements for safe food, produced from environmental and animal friendly practices

- Water scarcity and population growth

- GHG reduction

- Impacts of frequent adverse weather events drought, flood

- Exchange rates

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DRIVERS

National:

- Government wants to unlock resources (water) to enable economic growth

- Water quality deterioration and quantity fully allocated

- Drive to increase production while reducing the environmental footprint

- Intensification and expansion of dairy systems

- Tighter links between dairy and sheep and beef systems

- Increasing input costs and compliance

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DRIVERS

Local:

- Community awareness of deteriorating resource condition

- Rural communities reflecting the changes in local employment driven by land use change

Individual farm:

- Complexity increasing
- Uncertainty high
- Lack of capability

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CONSEQUENCES OF DRIVERS

- Heightened community awareness of the impact of agriculture on the environment

- Conflict between users of water and farmers and the community around the consequences to reduced freedom to operate generated by policy

- Intensification and expansion of dairying as farmers get pushed out of sheep and beef

- Reduced land area for finishing animals bred on the hills

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CONSEQUENCES OF DRIVERS

- Confusion and uncertainty in the industry around what the future holds and this is particularly true for investment in capital such as irrigation

- Investors are taking more notice of social and economic research as they start to come to terms with the fact that technologies alone will not fix the problem

- Building resilience to adverse weather events e.g. Water storage,

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NESTED RESPONSES

National

Regional

Catchment

Sub catchment group

Individual

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NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSE

- Land and Water Forum recommendations:
  - "Regional councils must engage with communities including Maori about the way their water bodies are valued, and **work collaboratively** with relevant land and water users and interested parties **throughout the catchment** to **set specific targets, standards and limits**"

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NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES

- “Identify opportunities for **enhancing** cultural, economic, environmental and social **value** in an integrated way from water resources”

- National Policy statements that will guide regional response

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REGIONAL POLICY RESPONSE

- Focus on the development of Regional Plans that identify objectives for environment, social, economic and cultural values

- Focus on the cumulative affects of land use and on allocation of water

- Collaborative partnerships developing with the productive sector, environmental groups, energy companies, and Maori

- Co-management of rivers with Maori

- Catchment committees set up to deal with local issues and site characteristics

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FARM AND INDUSTRY RESPONSES

- Understanding the consequences of meeting the environmental objectives set at the Regional scale on economic , social and cultural values so that the full costs and benefits are made transparent along with any trade offs.

- Understanding how their actions on the farm contribute to the cumulative impact

- Implementing good management practice to avoid or mitigate environmental leakage

- Developing collectives to enable catchment actions

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RESPONSES AIMED AT INFORMING GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

Provide principles that farmers can use to design their own solutions

Cost of mitigation needs to be known so it can be balanced with the cost of externalities

Farm plans to be set within the context of a catchment plan

Reliable water and associated metering to increase efficiency of water use

Protection of biodiversity through plans and covenants

Acknowledgement of and building of environmental infrastructure e.g. Wetlands

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THE WAY FORWARD

- Location, Location Location.....
- Catchment based collectives that network to produce environmental goods and products
- Networked farms
- Farm system design that takes into account land capability and assimilative capacity of water
- Reverse being a price taker
- Value added behind the farm gate

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