

## **PC1 Hearings Block 1.**

Good morning my name is Rick Burke I am Chairman of F4PC.

I am farming sheep, bull beef and dairy grazers just south of Katikati in the BOP.

My connection with the Waikato is:

I am a member and past Chairman of the Beef + Lamb Mid Northern Farmer Council which covers BOP, Waikato, King Country and the Counties' district:

I'm part of the Chiefs Clan.

I have followed the development of PC1 from its inception hoping to see an inspirational plan that would be fair and equitable for all farming sectors and to lead the way forward for NZ with innovative policy that would make meaningful improvement in water quality & ecosystem health.

I was hoping to see a Plan that would empower our sectors and rural communities to work together with Iwi at the forefront to give us all a better understanding the principles of kiati ake tunga that would ultimately stimulate and grow our rural towns and communities.

Sadly, I see none of this in PC1. I see a plan that has been crafted around an offsetting concept which is morally wrong and unacceptable. This offsetting concept has divided the farming sectors across the Waipa and Waikato.

PC1 in its current form means our sheep and beef sector, which has approximately 50% of the pastoral land area, is fighting for its existence.

In my mind, PC1 regards our sector as a sunset industry which saddens me, which is why I'm here today.

I am actually extremely excited about our industry. You heard from the CEO of Beef & Lamb Sam McIvor last week about the market opportunities for our sector and the value proposition that we can

create around our grass fed systems, our environmental protection and provenance stories.

There is a huge opportunity for many farmers to take their farms to the next stage of development. To recognise the value of their farming enterprises by working through their FEP thus the redesign of their farms to extract the value out of ecosystem services and farm systems to achieve greater profitability.

Mark my words - in my opinion many of our sheep and beef farmers are sitting on a gold mine. I believe this is a succession opportunity to attract a new generation of farmers onto the land.

F4PC is solution focussed.

Through the hearings process we aim to assist you as Commissioners to develop policy which creates certainty and equitability for all our rural sectors and their communities which will take us into a new age of thinking on how we manage our landscapes.

PC1 needs to be redesigned to create a culture of confidence by getting farmers and our rural communities to look through a different lens, a lens of certainty!

**Now I would just like to take you through some key points of my Hearings statement:**

You have just heard from James Bailey and how the sheep & Beef sector was poorly represented through the CSG process. I guess standing here in front of you today we are the evidence of that void, along with KCRC, HCFG and PLUG.

**So who are F4PC?**

Following the Notification of PC1, F4PC had several farmer meetings to rally farmer support.

Can I take you back to **page 3 items 11,12,13 & 15.**

**F4PC concerns with PC1. Page 7 - Items 35, 36 & 43.**

**F4PC Proposed solutions. Page 11 - Items 58, 59, 60, 61 65, 67, 68 & 72.**

1. **Conclusion:** You as Commissioners along with the WRC have the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy of success with the redesign of PC1 to give the Waipa and Waikato rural communities certainty for the future. Certainty comes with farmers and their communities having a vision of what success looks like with aims and objectives that are doable and achievable.