



# New Zealand Carbon Farming

Preserving our planet for future generations

30 October 2024

Greater Wellington Regional Council  
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## **New Zealand Carbon Farming Group (“NZCF”) (S263) – Hearing Stream One: Overarching Matters and Regional-Wide Issues – Submission Summary**

**To:** Hearing Panel for Proposed Plan Change 1 and The Freshwater Hearing Panel to the Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region

1. The New Zealand Carbon Farming Group (NZCF) is New Zealand’s largest owner of planted managed forests. Its 78,000-hectare estate includes 67,000-hectares of permanent forests, carefully managed to regenerate over time into an indigenous and biodiverse conservation estate. The organization's forest management regime includes nurse crop establishment, pest animal and plant control, thinning, canopy manipulation, enrichment native planting as required, fire mitigation and forest health programmes, which are designed to align commercial imperatives with long-term specific ecological objectives. The focus of the business is to concurrently:
  - sequester carbon to make a real difference in climate change; and
  - to provide a long-term lasting legacy of resilient and biodiverse native forest in its permanent forest estate.
2. NZCF lodged a submission on the Proposed Plan Change 1 (PC1) to the Natural Resources Plan (NRP) on 15 December 2023 and a further submission on 15 March 2024. This letter provides a summary of the submission points that NZCF wishes to be heard on at Hearing Stream One on overarching matters and region-wide changes, and Policy WH.P28 of PC1.

### **Summary of Submission Points**

3. NZCF wishes to be heard on the following key matters. Namely, that:
  - (a) given that the final form of the Wellington Regional Policy Statement (WRPS), which also gives effect to the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management (NPSFM), is yet to be determined, it is premature to notify NRP provisions that must also give effect to the NPSFM. NZCF prefers that the WRPS is determined first to avoid inefficiencies;
  - (b) greater weight is given to the recommendations of the Te Whaitua te Whanganui-a-Tara Implementation Programme and the Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua: Whaitua Implementation Programme (together, the “Recommendations”) so that the Recommendations are accurately and appropriately reflected in PC1; and



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(c) greater focus is given to achieving environmental outcomes through effective management of the effects of activities, rather than blanket removal of land uses in particular areas, with particular focus given to Policy WH.P28.

4. NZCF also wishes to note our intention to file evidence and address matters raised in our submission at a later date.

## **Conclusion**

5. If you require any clarification regarding the above matters ahead of Hearing Stream One, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Casey**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**New Zealand Carbon Farming Group**

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Tayla Westman  
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