

Submission to Ministry for the Environment

Re: **PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR
FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT**

By: New Zealand Pork

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Contact: Frances Clement
Policy and Issues Manager
Phone 04 917 4756
Email frances.clement@pork.co.nz

INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZPork) is a statutory producer board. It works on behalf of pork producers to secure a sustainable future for the industry, and to make the best net ongoing contribution to the New Zealand economy. Total economic activity associated with New Zealand farmed pigs is over \$700 million per annum (NZIER, 2007).

NZPork maintains a strong focus on supporting research to optimise the efficiency and sustainability of farming systems: environmental management has been an explicit strategic focus for over 30 years. Throughout this period, NZPork has been pro-active in working alongside central government and local authorities to research the environmental impact of industry practices, to develop best management tools, and to support producer uptake.

NZPork welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the development of a National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management.

GENERAL

NZPork considers that the NPS in its current form will fail to deliver on effectively engaging action in support of improving the quality and efficient use of freshwater.

In its attention to prescribing council process, it neglects to articulate substantive objectives, or to prioritise pathways forward.

NZPork commends the Primary Sector Water Partnership Leadership Document as a useful template for the development of a more effective NPS.

SPECIFIC

NZPork (an affiliated member of Federated Farmers) supports the recommendations made by Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc as providing for more clarity, consistency and practical, cost-effective application of the proposed NPS.

NZPork suggests that all the objectives need significant review and re-structuring. Currently, they are too broad to be properly described as objectives, or to be useful in guiding concerted community action in priority catchments.

RECOMMENDATION

New Zealand Pork recommends that the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management be substantively re-structured preliminary to seeking further public submissions. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.