A. About the Taumarunui Sustainable Land Management Group (TSLM):

- Established in 2002 with initial assistance from MAF (Sustainable Farming Fund). Now fully funded by members.
- 35 members representing the broad rural community including farmers, iwi, district and regional councils, AgResearch, DoC, MPI and consultants.
- The group approach is holistic and regional, focusing on defining sustainable land use, identifying factors which enhance or restrict this sustainability and promoting desirable practices through group and community extension and local and national media.
- With most current members being inaugural members, the group collectively has a long and deep involvement in considering and acting on sustainable mitigation options for nutrient leaching and runoff, GHG emissions, hill country erosion, protection of water quality and protection of native bush remnants.
- Trials and projects initiated by the group including:
  - Clearly defining "sustainable land use" – emphasising the 3-legged stool concept of sustainability – the legs representing the integral and co-dependant economic, social/cultural and environmental components of sustainability.
  - Defining indicators of social/cultural, economic and environmental sustainability
  - Developing a sustainability assessment template for use by farmers
  - Participating in a 3-year, NZ-wide, SFF, AgResearch-supervised project analysing actual trends in GHG emissions on sheep and beef enterprises from 1990 to 2009. A member contributed one of the case study farms for this project. Key findings included:
    - The calculation of pastoral GHG emissions is dominated by the amount of pasture eaten – stocking rate x pasture production and utilisation
    - From 1990 to 2009 the case study farm reduced its total emissions by 13% and its emissions intensity (GHGs per kg of product) by 18%.
    - Changing stocking rate (reducing stock numbers) was the only factor which could significantly affect emissions.
    - Planting exotic forest to offset GHGs was not a sustainable long term option.
  - Perhaps the most important conclusion reached by the group – after some years of consideration – is that the measure of success of the sustainability of land use management, on a regional basis, is the level of well being of the local towns and communities.
• The TSLM has for decades, actively supported the responsible integration into hill country farming systems of small scale forestry for aesthetics, bees/honey, erosion control, timber and/or carbon farming purposes.

B. Resolutions from the meeting of the TSLM group on 02 August 2019:

Two options were considered:

Option 1: The Interim Climate Change Committee’s (ICCC) recommendation of placing processors into the Emissions Trading Scheme from 2020 and farmers with an emissions levy (based on the ETS carbon price) with a "free allocation" (initially set at 95%).

Option 2: The Primary Sector Climate Change Commitment (of which Federated Farmers is a part). This industry-driven proposal involves achieving a five-year programme of action that will deliver the same outcomes as Option 1 but without the need to bring agriculture into the ETS at a processor level.

The unanimous resolutions of the TSLM members at their group meeting of 02 August 2019, were:

1. To reject Option 1
2. To support Option 2
3. To request that the TSLM group be involved in further public consultation on Climate & Agriculture
4. That the determination of the final Government policy following this public consultation, be subject to the Rural Proofing procedure promoted by this Government.

C. TSLM member comments & observations regarding the ICCC report & recommendations:

• Any proposal that locks farmers into a capped level of production will result in steady economic deterioration of individual businesses and the industry as a whole. This due to production and incomes being capped but expenses not, leading to an inevitable reduction in farm profit. (This is occurring now in the Taupo catchment as a result of the nitrogen cap).

• The contention that the emissions intensity improvements of about 1% per year for the last 25 years, should be considered "business as usual" implies that the benefits of new technology in reducing emissions intensity, should not be considered. This would be a serious disincentive to farmers and appears contrary to the intent of the proposed legislation.

We advise would like to speak to this submission.

Thank you

Taumarunui Sustainable Land Management Group

Attached - List of group members
Geoff Burton Farm Business Management

Distribution List Name:  SLM GROUP

Members:
AgResearch - Alec Mackay
Carter Matthew
Carter Mike & Jackie
Dempsey Isobel
Dewes Colin & Moira
Duncan Phyl
Duncan Struan
Fed Farmers - Luke Pepper
Geoff Burton Farm Business Management
Horizons - Bruce Rollinson Regional Counsellor
Horizons - Phil Hodges
Horizons - Sarah Nicholson
Horizons - Weston Brown
Houpapa Vonda
Knight Wallace
Lancaster Dick - Work
McMillan Grant & Sandy
MPI - Laura-Kate Petersen
MPI - Paul Chantrill
MPI Policy Agent - Geoff Burton
Poole Robbie
Porritt Richard & Jackie
RDC CEO - Clive Manley
RDC Mayor - Don Cameron
Richards Ross
Steele Dan
Steele Dan
Te Uranga B2 - Derek Wooster (1)
Te Uranga B2 - Derek Wooster (2)
Te Uranga B2 - Donna Tuwhangai
Te Uranga B2 - Richard Burgess