Dairy Women’s Network (DWN)  
October 2019

Submission on the Essential Freshwater Package (EFP)

About DWN
DWN is close to a 10,000 member Kiwi not-for-profit organisation supported by a passionate team of volunteer regional leaders and partners across NZ who are dedicated to our organisation’s purpose to empower farm businesses to thrive with knowledge and connection.

DWN develop, facilitate and promote events and initiatives for members to acquire industry-based knowledge and soft skills.

Our values are;
- 1 of a kind
- Stand tall together
- Inclusive
- Make it happen

We focus on and deliver learning with a purpose.

Submission
Like all New Zealanders, DWN values our fresh water. Our rivers and lakes, and how we care for and use them, are a fundamental part of who we are. We respect the mana of our freshwater - Te Mana o te Wai.

DWN acknowledges the work funded and completed by our members and all people so far. Improving freshwater management has been at the forefront of our members minds for a long time and their actions and money has demonstrated their commitment to freshwater specifically in the areas of fencing & planting of on farm water ways and effluent management.

DWN’s submission covers 3 points in relation to the proposed EFP being;
- that whatever the final content and form of the package, all people, both urban and rural, need to be engaged, connected and “brought along”
empowering people with knowledge, there needs to be investment in the knowledge transfer with government providing funding above the usual channels

we are keen for the government to invest in science that adds value to our members

Specifically, in relation to the rural community, DWN believes that government has opportunity to achieve a better outcome by developing and implementing a plan that runs alongside any final EFP which deals specifically with engagement, connecting people and empowering people with knowledge.

Ultimately it is individual people and families that will solve the problems and execute the final EFP. An EFP, no matter how technically or scientifically robust, will not succeed in achieving the desired outcome without connection, engagement and knowledge with the people.

Essential to achieving engagement, connection and “bringing people along”, the narrative and context led by Government needs to value both the input and actions provided by individuals, families, industry and the community.

The narrative and context in relation to dairying at present potentially provides an environment in which dairying people and families feel marginalised, unappreciated for actions already taken and ignored in terms of their current input due to the timing and limited time to provide feedback to the proposed EFP.

DWN would welcome the opportunity to provide further feedback should this be sought.