Appendix 2

The Benefits of Developing and Implementing Farm Environment Plans

Generally, our milk suppliers have found the following when developing and implementing a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) for their farms:

- FEPs have become an integral part of farming system.

- It is an excellent tool to achieve good management practice (GMP). Through GMP farmers are seeing positive environmental and financial benefits.

- By working towards achieving the targets and objectives within the FEP, it has shown the inefficiencies in some farm systems that were costing money and adding no benefit.

- Overseer highlights nutrients and effluent can be used more efficiently.

- Installing soil moisture monitoring and implementing regular irrigation bucket tests have been able to decrease water usage while growing more dry matter. 10 years ago the common practice was to switch on at the same time each year – that’s not done now.

- Many have learnt about Mahinga Kai and realised that in terms of environmental stewardship they share quite a bit in common with Maori.

- For one of our suppliers, over the past five years our N loss number has decreased by 40%, our production has lifted with a lower stocking rate and fewer supplements, and has moved from a ‘C’ (fail) to an ‘A’ (pass) grade audit.

- The Synlait FEP template makes the process easy, as it has all of the matters that need to be covered off.

- Industry education plays a big part in helping farmers implement and achieve these positive outcomes, for FEPs to have the desired outcomes there needs to be industry capability.