



**LANDCORP**  
NEW ZEALAND

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Media release

## **Taupo dairy farmers to set up water users group**

Federated Farmers, Landcorp Farming Ltd, and Wairakei Pastoral Ltd have undertaken to explore setting up a water users group of upper Waikato River farmers. The new group will be tasked with finding ways to optimise water usage and ensure the water requirements of all local dairy farmers are being met to the greatest extent possible.

The announcement follows Tuesday's discussions between the three parties and Waikato Regional Council representatives. Participants also agreed to work collaboratively on lowering rates of nutrient loading and developing new on-farm systems and practices that minimise dairying's environmental impact.

William Rolleston, Federated Farmers President, said water usage and protecting the environment were challenges faced by all farmers. Farmers had the best chance of success if they worked together.

"The results of today's discussions are a very strong commitment from participants that we will do everything in our power to ensure water takes are fairly and efficiently shared.

"New Zealand farmers are some of the most efficient users of water, but we still need to keep doing better. Strengthening the relationships between Landcorp, Wairakei Pastoral and other farmers in the community will mean we can work together to develop the most efficient and environmentally sound on-farm systems possible."

Landcorp chief executive, Steven Carden, said water allocation was a core part of Landcorp's strategy to rejuvenate the land.

"It was useful to let Federated Farmers and the Waikato Regional Council know how water use is part our strategy for dealing with nutrient loading across the Estate.

"A closer relationship with them allows us to share our knowledge of what dairy farming practices work best in Taupo. We're looking forward to deepening our relationships with local farmers in the future," he said.

Participants took the opportunity to urge all farmers to submit their dairy shed water takes consent applications with the Waikato Regional Council. Applications must be at the Waikato Regional council offices by 12 pm on 24 December 2014, in order to guarantee access to the special grandparenting provisions in Variation 6.

## **Ends**

## **Contact**

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## **Editor's notes**

### About Landcorp

Landcorp is a state owned enterprise and New Zealand's largest corporate farmer. It owns or manages 137 dairy, beef, sheep and deer farms from the Far North to Southland. With 1.6 million stock units on 376,942 Ha, it produces around 18,000 tonnes of milk solids, 10,000 tonnes of sheep meat, 10,000 tonnes of beef, 3,500 tonnes of wool, 2,500 tonnes of venison and 8 tonnes of velvet per annum.

### About Federated Farmers

Federated Farmers' role and mission is to respond to the mass of policy and issues farmers face, and collectively take farming forward.

The Federation consists of 24 provinces and employs professional staff who work for our member-farmers. As a democratic organisation, we give farmers a collective voice at both a regional, national and international level. We also represent the specific interests of members within Meat & Fibre, Dairy, Goats, Rural Butchers, High Country, Grain & Seed and Bees.

### About Wairakei Estate

The Wairakei Estate development is a 26,000ha joint venture between Wairakei Pastoral Ltd and Landcorp Farming Ltd. to develop environmentally sustainable pastoral farmland.

Pastoral dairy farming will be the primary use of the land and, on completion in 2021, the estate will house 39 sheds and approximately 42,000 dairy cows. It will also support more than 7,500 ha of new forestry plantings, Lucerne crop plantations, and geothermal power generation. The estate currently has nine operational dairy farms.