

# Your submission to Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

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**Reference no: 70**

## **Clause**

Does the RMA framework provide sufficient clarity and direction on how highly productive land should be managed? Why/why not?

## **Notes**

No. The RMA allows regional councils to write their own rules on Air Quality. Some have decided to allow on-farm Burning of Plastic through waste minimisation regulations

## **Clause**

Are you aware of other problems facing highly productive land?

## **Notes**

Yes. Burning and burying of plastic causes a loss of production land potentials. ie 1. Burnt plastic smoke causes a degradation of soil, pasture and environment. Grass production potential is lost due to toxic chemical emissions ie: dioxins and furans, benzilates, heavy metals, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. This lowers soil health - productive capacity of land. 2. Burying plastic on farm causes pasture root systems to not be as deep, there by missing out on nutrient uptake and also leaving the plants at higher risk during adverse weather advents such as drought. 3. When highly productive soils are contaminated by burnt plastic smoke the safety of the food chain is compromised. This is of concern to local consumers and export markets of our primary produce. (Estimate: Hundreds of tons of agricultural plastics are burnt in New Zealand each year) Reference Ontario Agricultural waste Study: Environmental impacts open burning agricultural plastics: final report July 2011.