

To: The Ministries for Primary Industries and for the Environment
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*(If you are posting your submission, send it to:
NPS-HPL Submission
Land and Water Policy Team
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140)*

Name of Submitter: Tararua Vegetable Growers

Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land.

The Tararua Growers Association represents growers on the west side of the Tararua's between Otaki and Rangitiki. The group advocates for growers interests and provides a community support network for growers.

Tararua Growers Association is a source of grower knowledge for:

- Industry groups including HortNZ, Vegetables NZ, Potatoes NZ, Onions NZ and Asparagus NZ,
- Regional and District Councils,
- Iwi and Hapu, and
- Other community groups.

Vegetables are grown in different rotations throughout the Manawatu/Whanganui Region. These different rotations are designed for the different soils and climates. They produce different crops at different times of the year. These growing systems include:

- potatoes and carrot growing within pasture rotations on extensive sheep and beef farms in the Ohakune area,
- potatoes and onion growing within pasture rotations on dairy farms in the Manawatu,
- long-duration asparagus rotations in the Manawatu, and
- green vegetable rotations, that produce year-around vegetables, in the Horowhenua District.

We submit:

1. Vegetable growers depend on highly productive land to grow food for New Zealanders and for export.
2. Growers are affected by complaints when urban and lifestyle development is located close to their operations. These complaints can reduce the ability of growers to use their land for growing food.
3. We support policy for a planned approach to urban and lifestyle development.
4. When planning urban and lifestyle development, we support a policy to maintain the productive capacity of Highly Productive Land.
5. The productive capacity of Highly Productive Land should be measured by the economic, social and cultural contribution of the land.
6. The productive capacity of land is dependent on natural and physical resources such as soil, climate, water and infrastructure. It is also dependent other factors including water and nutrient allocation policy and labour.
7. Maintaining the productive capacity of land must consider all relevant factors.
8. Some land with good soils and a favourable climate, may not be highly productive because of other constraints. For example, insufficient access to water allocation for irrigation and nutrient allocation that is insufficient for growing vegetables. The National Policy Statement for Highly Productive land should not prevent urban or lifestyle

development on land that is not highly productive due to constraints that make growing vegetables no longer sustainable.

9. We support the location of activities that enhance the productive capacity of Highly Productive Land on that land. For example, glasshouses, packing sheds, post-harvest facilities, and distribution infrastructure that enhance the productive capacity of outdoor growers.
10. We support using incentives to improve the productive capacity of land. In some cases, this could provide for the development of land identified as Highly Productive Land. For example, transferable development rights in exchange for title aggregation.
11. We support policies to reduce reverse sensitivity issues. For example, requiring effective buffers at the rural boundary and within a developer's site.
12. We support policies to prevent new sensitive activities, such as schools or places of worship, being developed on Highly Productive Land, where the use would affect the productive capacity of neighbouring Highly Productive Land.

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