

Te Aukaha Information Paper # 1 He Waka Eke Noa – Our Future in Our Hands: Primary Sector Climate Change Commitment

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Paper is to provide a background to the He Waka Eke Noa Primary Sector Climate Change Commitment, in particular on Te Aukaha, the Māori Workstream.

BACKGROUND

1. In October 2019, Cabinet agreed to take up the commitments set out in He Waka Eke Noa Primary Sector Climate Change Commitment (HWEN) and to work with the food and fibre sector and Iwi/Māori to support the transition to farm-level pricing from 2025. Through this agreement, the Government and primary sector organisations have committed to working in good faith with each other and Iwi/Māori to design a practical and cost-effective system for reducing emissions at the farm level by 2025.
2. The Commitment is supported by the 11 members of the Food & Fibre Leaders' Forum including the Federation of Māori Authorities (FOMA). FOMA, in conjunction with other Māori and Iwi organisations, will lead the Māori agribusiness workstream. The HWEN 5-year work programme includes
 - improved tools for estimating and benchmarking emissions on farms,
 - integrated farm plans that include a climate module,
 - investment in research, development, and commercialisation,
 - increased farm advisory capacity and capability,
 - recognising early adopters,
 - recognising on-farm mitigation such as small plantings, riparian areas and natural cover.
3. The Government has set a two-year target for the Primary Sector to demonstrate its commitment to lowering emissions. The independent Climate Change Commission will report to the Government in June 2022 on the progress made towards the milestones of He Waka Eke Noa and the establishment of a farm level reporting and pricing mechanism.
4. If the milestones are not on track to be met, the Government can bring the agriculture sector (livestock and fertiliser) into the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme at processor level prior to 2025.
5. The Minister for Climate Change and Minister of Agriculture must table a report in Parliament by 1 December 2022 setting out core design details of an alternative farm level pricing system to the Emissions Trading Scheme.

HWEN Work programme & Steering Group

6. As mentioned above, the Government has set a two-year target for the Primary Sector to demonstrate its commitment to lowering emissions. This means work needs to start now.
7. The HWEN work programme covers the following eight workstreams including the Māori agribusiness workstream which intersects the entire HWEN work programme.
 - On-farm emissions reporting
 - On-farm emissions pricing
 - Farm plans
 - On-farm sequestration
 - Māori agribusiness
 - Extension
 - Innovation and uptake
 - Supporting early action
8. In 2021 this has been reduced to workstreams, namely:
9. A Steering Group has been established to lead the overall HWEN work programme. FOMA will work with the Steering Group programme director (Kelly Foster) and team to ensure the Māori agribusiness workstream is aligned and supports the HWEN work programme.

Steering Group

10. The Steering Group consists of the following members:

#	Position	Representative
1	Chair (Independent)	Michael Ahie
2	Ministry for Primary Industries Manatū Ahu Matua	Deputy Director General (Policy and Trade) - Julie Collins
3	Ministry for the Environment Manatū Mō Te Taiao	Deputy Secretary (Water and Climate Change) - Cheryl Barnes
4	Member with understanding of iwi, hapū and whānau perspectives	Vaughan Payne
5	Federation of Māori Authorities (FOMA)	Tanira Kingi
6	Beef + Lamb New Zealand	Jeremy Baker
7	Dairy New Zealand	Bruce Thorrold
8	Horticulture New Zealand	Michelle Sands
9	Federated Farmers of New Zealand	Karen Williams
10	Agri-food processor	Charlotte Rutherford

HWEN Deliverables/Key milestones

Farm-level emissions pricing

11. To demonstrate progress and inform the Ministerial report back to Parliament on the feasibility and core design features of an alternative farm-level pricing system, the Steering Group should aim to provide recommendations on the core design features of an alternative pricing system by early 2021. Initial concept for an alternative pricing system should be complete by end of 2020. This will build on the principles set out in He Waka Eke Noa. Testing and refinement of that system with stakeholders should occur in 2021.

Emissions reporting

12. For 25% of farms in New Zealand, a person responsible for farm management holds a documented annual total of on-farm greenhouse gas emissions, by methods and definitions approved by the He Waka Eke Noa Steering group, by 31 December 2021.
13. For all farms in New Zealand, a person responsible for farm management holds a documented annual total of on-farm greenhouse gas emissions, by methods and definitions approved by the He Waka Eke Noa Steering group, by 31 December 2022.
14. A pilot of a farm level accounting and reporting system has been completed by 1 January 2024 across a range of farm types.
15. A system for farm-level accounting and reporting of 2024 agricultural emissions at farm level is in use by all farms by 1 January 2025.

Farm planning

16. Guidance is provided to farmers on how to measure and manage greenhouse gas emissions through farm planning by 1 January 2021.
17. A quarter of farms have a written plan in place to measure and manage their greenhouse gas emissions by 1 January 2022.
18. All farms have a written plan in place to measure and manage their greenhouse gas emissions by 1 January 2025.

Other

19. Progress toward broader milestones and actions set out in He Waka Eke Noa.

TE AUKAHA MĀORI AGRIBUSINESS WORKSTREAM

Introduction

20. The Māori agribusiness sector has more complexity in its land tenure systems, ownership structures and its deep cultural connection to land and water than the mainstream farming sector, and therefore warrants a distinct approach. Most Māori agribusiness entities include a combined portfolio of forestry, sheep and beef, dairy, and horticulture.
21. While there is over 1.2 million hectares of Māori land, less than 500 Māori trusts and incorporations make up 90% of Māori Agribusiness, many of which are FOMA members, including those large-scale Māori agribusiness entities with 30,000 hectares plus. FOMA knows this sector and has deep relationships developed over generations with Ahuwhenua and tribal entities. FOMA has already drawn on this network knowledge to convene a Te Aukaha Manawhakahaere – Governance group, and Te Kohinga Ahuwhenua – Te Kohinga Ahuwhenua Māori Agribusiness Transition Panel.
22. The Te Aukaha work plan is aligned with the HWEN workstreams.

Māori Agribusiness Workstream Inter-relationship with HWEN

23. Te Aukaha - the Māori workstream is led by FOMA, and as outlined in the Workstream Map goes across all the other workstreams. The relationship is one of working with the HWEN project office within their structure, including input into the workstreams to ensure alignment with the Māori Workstream.
24. Traci Houpapa sits on the Food and Fibre Leaders Forum Chairs group and Dr Tanira Kingi is on the He Waka Eke Noa: Steering Group, the Chief Executives Group and CE Technical Advisors Group
25. The Kaihautū of the Māori Workstream aligns with the HWEN Programme Director (PD) and will work alongside the other workstream leads that report directly to the Programme Director. There will be a high degree of interaction to some degree with the Programme Director but more particularly Māori Agribusiness Workstream staff/ contractors. FOMA is suggesting an ambitious vision for the Māori Agribusiness Workstream.

Vision

26. Our Vision for Te Aukaha is that Māori lead the transition to a low emission economy.

Context

27. Our contextual settings are that Māori can influence not only the shape of the primary sector that underpins the Aotearoa/NZ economy but also regional economies and communities.

28. While there is an acute focus on mitigating on-farm emissions we seek to hardwire systemic change for the shift to a lower emission economy.
29. We will draw on our deep principles of Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) and Kaitiakitanga (active guardianship) and apply to the fit for purpose practices in the context to the future lower emission economy.
30. We will draw on our current cross-sector land-based investments including dairy, mixed livestock, horticulture, produce and forestry), and convergent interests in seafood to position the Māori sector for transition to low emission economic activity.
31. We will connect to the eco-system of Māori farming collectives, clusters, and key influencers to convert measurements into cohesive entity, regional and national level targets and deploy towards the achievement of those targets.
32. To achieve our vision and mission, we can only do so by working with others.

“FOMA and other Māori and Iwi groups will work together with government and industry to develop suitable climate change, emissions reduction and related systems for the Māori agribusiness sector.” (HWEN Climate Change Commitment, p 13)

33. To achieve our vision in the context above we have established four key objectives.

Key Objectives

34. The Māori workstream milestone objectives are:
 1. Establish and deploy Te Aukaha.
 2. To ensure that Māori Collective Farmers have measured their baseline carbon profile (25% by 31 Dec 2021, 100% by 31 Dec 2022).
 3. To ensure Farm Environmental Plans are in place (25% by 1 Jan 2022, 100% by 1 Jan 2025) and being deployed.
 4. To provide cohesion and add-value to the secondary He Waka eke noa workstreams:
 - On-Farm Emissions Pricing
 - Farm Plans
 - On-Farm Sequestration
 - Extension
 - Innovation and Uptake
 - Supporting Early Action
35. FOMA has put in place a Manawhakahaere to provide Governance for Te Aukaha the Māori Agribusiness workstream, an internal business plan has been drafted setting out the deployment of the workstream,

36. The Manawhakahaere includes Traci Houpapa (Chair), Liz Mellish, Mavis Mullins, Anne Carter, Paul Morgan, Hilton Collier, Ratahi Cross and Paul White. and Dr Tanira Kingi sit ex-officio. The purpose of the Manawhakahaere Governance Group is to provide the governance and strategic leadership of Te Aukaha. There are two phases:

Phase One: Establishment

- To work with FOMA to establish the Māori workstream of Te Aukaha; and

Phase Two: Effective Governance & Leadership

- To ensure effective Governance & Leadership of Te Aukaha.

37. Te Kohinga Ahuwhenua Māori Agribusiness Transition Panel is a group of Māori agri-business leaders, practitioners, managers and operators which will meet from time to time to discuss and support the Te Aukaha work programme. This group will provide much needed organisational, operational and project expertise and insights to the work of Te Aukaha.

38. Te Kohinga Ahuwhenua includes Tina Porou, Rowynne Yeatman, Bill Young, Wally Kingi, Weo Maag, Harvey Bell and Victor Goldsmith.

39. The operational structure includes a Programme Director/ Kaihautū – TeHoripo Karaitiana, Programme Manager – Lee Warbrick and Policy Director – Terina Willaims.

40. A technical group supports the operational team, they are: Hilton Collier, Paul White, Doug McCredie.

Further Information

A copy of the HWEN Base document can be found at this link:

[primary-sector-climate-change-commitment-july-2019](#)

Contact:

For further information and to provide feedback, email: hw@foma.org.nz

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