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Date: **3 October 2018**

**RE:** Waimakariri Water Zone Committee – Draft Zone Implementation Programme Addendum (Draft ZIPA)

### **Background**

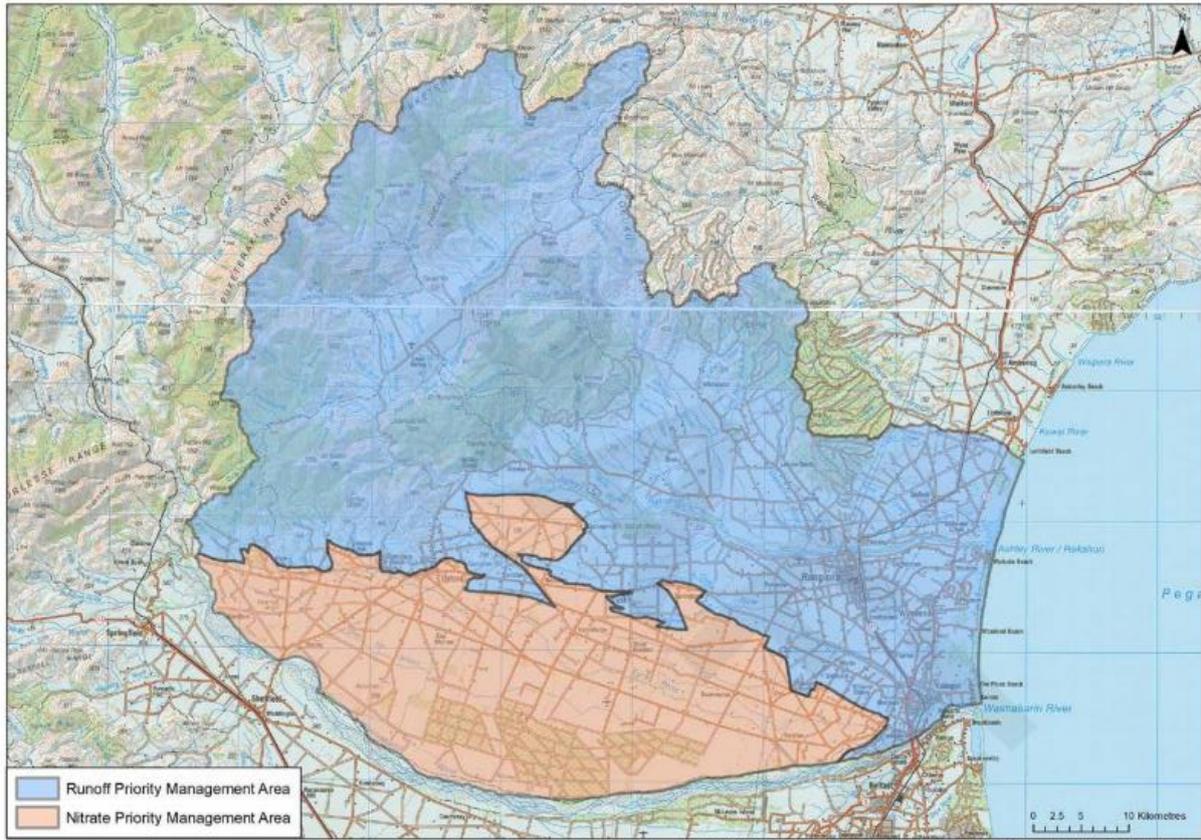
The Waimakariri Water Zone Committee, made up of local residents, have put forward a Draft ZIPA with recommendations of how nutrients should be managed in the catchment to improve water quality in a sustainable way.

The Draft ZIPA will go to ECAN who will consider the recommendations but ultimately decide the Sub-regional plan for this catchment. Therefore, please be aware that the farming targets outlined below from the Draft ZIPA may change once the Waimakariri sub-regional plan is confirmed. This is expected to be in 2021.

### **What does the Draft ZIPA mean for farmers?**

The zone committee have split the catchment into two main areas shown in Figure 1. These are defined as:

1. Nitrate Priority Management Area, which encapsulates land where special measures are required to manage nitrate as the first priority;
2. Runoff Priority Management Area, where sediment, phosphorus and/or E. coli. are likely to be having a greater overall adverse impact than nitrate and hence careful management of runoff is top priority.

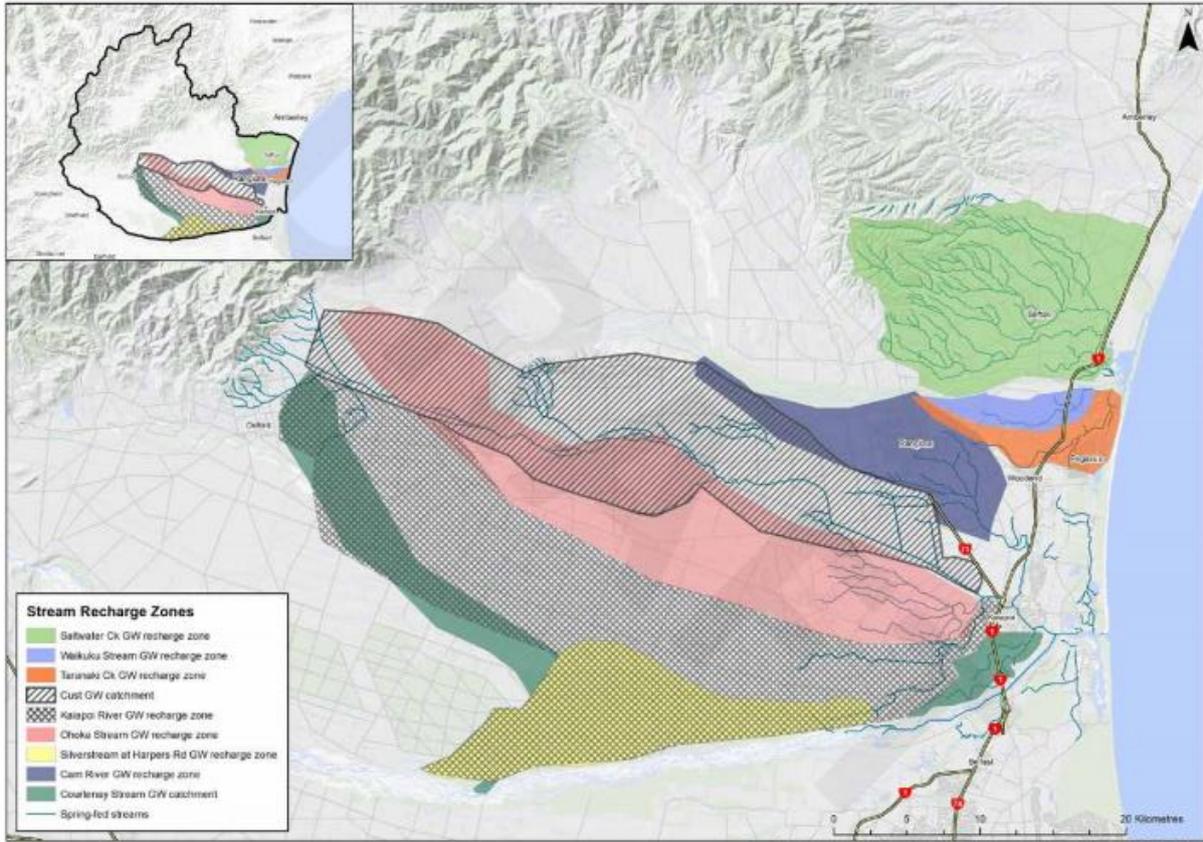


**Figure 1:** Recommended nitrate and runoff priority management areas

### **Nitrate Priority Management Area**

If a farm is located in the Nitrate Priority Management Area the following rules apply:

- **2020:** Farms that don't have land use consent are expected to achieve **Baseline good management practices (GMP) reductions** (calculated from ECAN Portal) by 2020. This is in line with Plan Change 5 (PC5) rules under the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). The GMP guidelines used by the ECAN Portal can be found in the booklet "Industry-agreed Good Management Practices relating to water quality."
- **2025:** For farms that currently have a land use consent, when this runs out they are expected to achieve **Baseline GMP reductions** by 2025.
- **2030 (dairy):** dairy farms are expected to reduce N loss rates by **10-15 % beyond Baseline GMP reductions**.
- **2030 (all other consented land use):** all other consented land use are expected to reduce N loss rates by **5-10 % beyond Baseline GMP reductions**.
- **After 2030:** consents are renewed and hot spot areas, where streams are recharged, may be required to make additional reductions on top of the 10-15 % N loss rates beyond GMP. These reductions can be up to 45% more than the 2030 target to meet the target N loss limit in 2060. Of greatest concern for the water zone committee are the high and upward trends in nitrate concentrations in the Silverstream catchment. These hot spot areas (stream recharge zones) are shown in Figure 2.



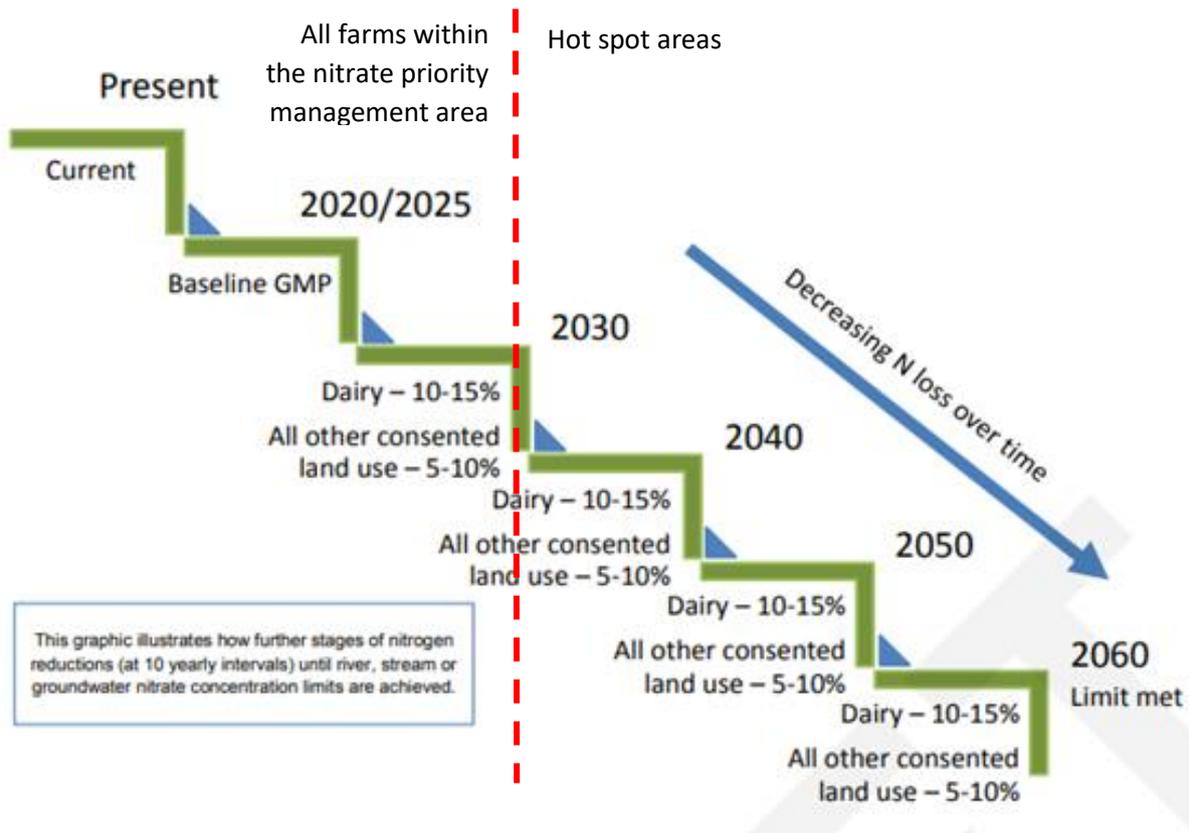
**Figure 2:** Stream recharge zones

- Table 1 summarises the potential reductions suggested by the Draft ZIPA for farms within the Nitrate Priority Management Area.

**Table 1:** Potential reductions suggested in the Draft ZIPA

Year	Reductions
2020 – No land use consent	Baseline GMP
2025 – Consented land	Baseline GMP
2030 – Dairy	Baseline GMP + 10-15 %
2030 – All other consented land use	Baseline GMP + 5-10 %
2030- 2060 – in hotspot areas only	Baseline GMP + 10-15 % + up to 45 % more

- A graph to illustrate the future stages of nitrogen restrictions is shown in Figure 3. The red line at 2030 represents when it is suggested farming land use consents should be renewed, and when an assessment should be made on the water quality of rivers. In particular, the hot spot areas (stream recharge zones) where decisions can be made about whether more reductions, on top of the of the 10-15 % beyond Baseline GMP reductions, should be enforced.



**Figure 3:** Proposed staged approach to nitrate reductions

### Runoff Priority Management Area

If the farm is located in the Runoff priority Management Area the following rules apply:

- **2020:** Farms that don't have land use consent they are expected to achieve **Baseline GMP reductions** by 2020. This is in line with Plan Change 5 (PC5) rules under the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP).
- **2025:** For farms that currently have a land use consent, when this runs out they are expected to achieve **Baseline GMP reductions** by 2025.
- **After 2025:** Farms under the runoff priority management area are not required to achieve beyond baseline GMP reductions.

### All Management Areas in Waimakariri Zone

- To prevent farmers from moving their winter grazing from the nitrate priority management area to the runoff priority management area (where they have lower reductions to make), the following winter grazing property size thresholds have been made:
  - A farm between 5 ha and 1,000 ha with more than 5% of property size for winter grazing triggers a consent requirement;
  - Farms greater than 1,000 ha with more than 50 ha for winter grazing triggers a consent requirement.
  - If the property irrigates more than 50 hectares, this triggers a consent requirement (this aligns with PC5 rules).

### **Review in 2030**

The Draft ZIPA suggests that Environment Canterbury commences a review of the Waimakariri section of the Land and Water Regional Plan in 2030 to incorporate new information and understanding of how social, cultural, economic and environmental systems have responded and whether we are on track to meet the plan nitrate limits. In particular, the hot spot areas (stream recharge zones) where decisions can be made about whether more reductions, on top of the of the 10-15 % N loss rates beyond GMP, should be enforced.

Therefore, it is suggested that farming land use consents are granted for a duration of 10 years and have common expiry dates to align with plan review stages.

Any questions in relation to the Waimakariri Draft ZIPA, please don't hesitate to call or email Kirsty Martin on 027 465 2803 or [kirsty@dfms.co.nz](mailto:kirsty@dfms.co.nz)