

Groundswell NZ is a grassroots rural movement. Together with our families, and with a sense of absolute urgency, we make the following requests to Government as a stake in the ground:

1. The **National Policy Statement on Freshwater** must be reworked to take into account regional differences. One size does not fit all. Solution based around work that regional catchment groups are already doing.
2. The **Significant Natural Area** regulations must be abandoned or reworked, with funding redirected to proven systems like the *QEII National Trust*. We see this regulation as a land grab. Private property rights must be protected.
3. The **National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity** should be scrapped. This policy punishes the landowners who have already been proactive in conservation, and turns biodiversity into a liability. Councils should be able to work with and support the many landowner initiatives such as landcare & catchment groups and the QEII National Trust. Private property rights must be protected.
4. **Seasonal rural workers from overseas** should be prioritised through MIQ: we urgently need rural contractors, horticulturalists, dairy farmers and fruit-pickers. The rural sector is doing the heavy-lifting for the NZ economy, now more than ever, and the mental strain on farmers and growers, of continuous long hours and product loss, is becoming unbearable.
5. The **NZ Emissions Trading Scheme** is seeing large areas of farmland incentivised into pines and a significant cost-burden borne by the world's most emissions-efficient farmers. The unworkable elements of climate-change policy which are crucifying farmers and growers must be withdrawn.
6. **Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill** – is regulation being applied to our high-country farmers, over and above existing council regulations. This unnecessary burden must be lifted. We do not know a single high-country farmer who is not passionate about his environment.
7. The 'Ute tax', or the Government's **Clean Car Package** rebate scheme, must be scrapped as there is no electric alternative to the ute – a vehicle which is essential to New Zealand's economic heavy-lifters: farmers, horticulturalists, industry support people and tradespeople. If there is no alternative, the policy is clearly unworkable and merely another financial burden.
8. We are appalled with the Government's decision to mandate the **3 Waters Reform**. This is just one more example of the Tsunami of unworkable regulations being forced on New Zealanders and is blatant theft of the assets of Council Ratepayers.

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