



Leading a
smarter, sustainable,
high performing
primary sector

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Heretaunga Plains Water Strategy

Prepared for
Heretaunga Sustainable
Water

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Foreword

Hawke's Bay is facing further challenges because of lack of security of water supply, and the potential impact to the region is significant. This strategy has been developed as part of a package of work for Heretaunga Sustainable Water including a *Situational Analysis Report*, *Expected Water Demand Model*, and *Priority Matrix of actions* intended to lead Heretaunga Sustainable Members forward into a sustainable and prosperous future. This strategy and accompanying information is future focussed, looking at the next 100 years across Heretaunga. Actions and ambitions are divided into Immediate (0-5 years), Short (5-15 years), Medium (15-50 years) and Long (50+ years) with key themes covering stewardship, collaboration, sustainability, investment, economic prosperity, and certainty.

AgFirst Consultants HB Ltd is pleased to be contributing to the creation of a vibrant collaborative approach to water management across the Heretaunga Plains and leading discourse on a high performing region.

Vision

To achieve intergenerational water security for the environment, community, lifestyle, and productive capacity of the Heretaunga Plains where:



Continuous, uninterrupted water supply to support a highly productive and sustainable primary sector



Water users accept they have a degree of environmental impact and are committed to implementation of appropriate, quantifiable, and measurable actions



Ongoing financial wellbeing of the region is underpinned via the realisation of successful future focussed strategies for the primary sector



Initial and ongoing costs of future water strategies are financially sustainable



Strategic solutions target water quality preservation and / or improvement across the Heretaunga Plains for Future Generations



Social license to farm is preserved or enhanced



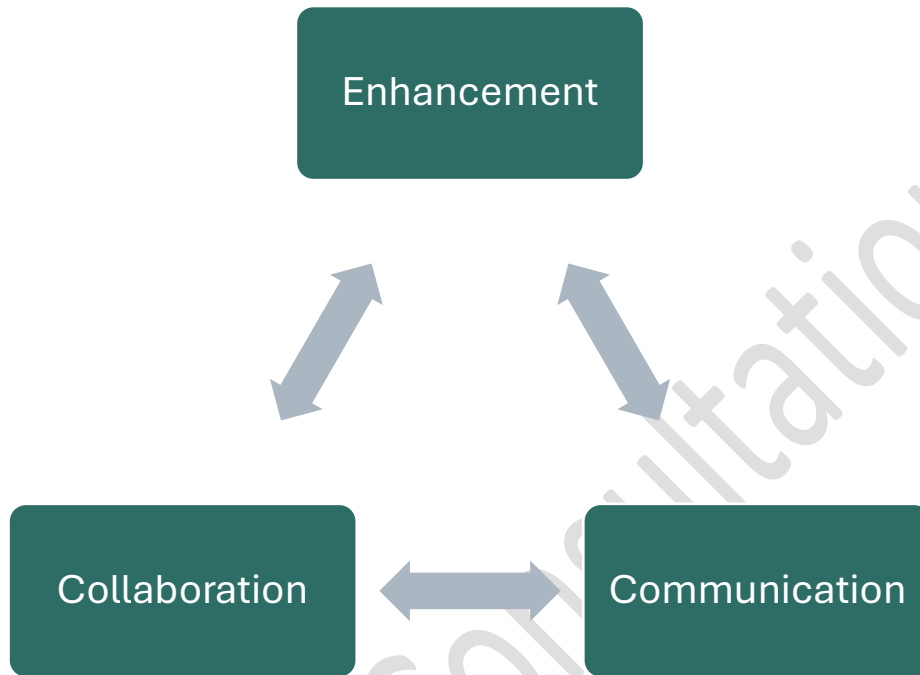
Availability of water is sufficient to enable succesful future landuse change options



Sufficient water is available to succeed in a changing climate

Opportunity

Realising the vision and plotting the course of economic prosperity via doubling the value of New Zealand's exports will be underpinned by:



Enhancement

Water quality and quantity across the Heretaunga Plains is enhanced via:

- **Assessment**
 - Ongoing identification of specific water quality challenges faced by individual freshwater bodies followed by the prioritisation of opportunities for improvement
- **Advancement**
 - Water users are committed to effectively delivering solutions to the identified challenges via identified quality improvements across a range surface water bodies, providing healthy and flourishing freshwater ecosystems;
- **Allocation**
 - Allocation of water resources is at sufficient volume and scale to enable ongoing security of supply for the primary sector. Storage opportunities will need to utilise a range of methodologies and locations;

Collaboration

Heretaunga Sustainable Members collaborate to foster economic prosperity including:

○ **Investigation**

- Understanding ongoing water need, supply solutions, and efficiency of shared allocations is improved across the short term;

○ **Identification & Investment**

- Efficient and effective methods for realising intergeneration water security as the vision of this strategy form the cornerstone of investment decisions;

○ **Impartiality**

- Independent governance centralised on fair and equitable outcomes for all Heretaunga Sustainable Water Members, enabling shared allocation across productive land, including potential globalisation of water permits;
- Water efficiency pathways are identified, evaluated, communicated, and facilitated across all members;

Communication

The strategic direction and efforts of Heretaunga Sustainable Water are communicated to a range of audiences, thereby enhancing confidence & trust in growers via:

○ **Sustainability**

- Members' ethos of sustainable management is utilised to improve social license, reinforcing growers commitments to assess, invest, and implement continuous improvement strategies;

○ **Stewardship**

- Levels of investment and improvements to business sustainability are communicated to a range of audiences, thereby enhancing:
 - Value of crops produced by Heretaunga Sustainable Water Members
 - Market opportunities for Hawke's Bay Produce; and
 - The ability of growers to control their own futures.

○ **Steadfast Commitment**

- Trust between Heretaunga Sustainable Water members, Council, Government, Mana whenua, and other parties invested in the wellbeing of water across the Heretaunga Plains improves, driving prosperity for the region.

Certainty

As resource users, the drive for improved resource use is inescapable and while water has been readily available in plentiful volumes across Heretaunga, reductions in allocation are now inevitable. Water users must reflect on this changing landscape and acknowledge:

- The take and use of water from ground or surface water results in a level of environmental effect;
- Pressure on the use of water as a resource will not ease;
- Operating as individuals results in an amplification of science heavy adversarial processes, leaving most out of their depth against well-resourced opposition groups;
- Greater pressure will be levied by regulators, markets, lending institutions, competing industries and the greater community to demonstrate specific and measurable mitigations. At an individual grower scale, this is difficult, however readily achieved by a group; and
- It is unlikely that reduced government regulation around water will materially alter the availability or security of water resources across the Heretaunga Plains. Intervention and action in developing solutions is required to secure a prosperous future.

Tension for change abounds with opportunity for water users to add certainty, reliability, and sustainability to their business while improving productivity and economic prosperity to the Region via Heretaunga Sustainable Water. This Strategy provides scope, direction, and clarity towards the collective response required for the challenges faced.

OUR WHAT

Leading a smarter, sustainable, high performing primary sector

OUR HOW

Using the best people and greatest ideas for the benefit of our clients

OUR WHY

We believe in creating a vibrant future for the primary sector



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