

Hon Todd McClay

Minister of Agriculture
Minister of Forestry
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Trade
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs



16 May 2024

TM01239

Mary Phillips

By email: fyi-request-26531-5477c4c3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your email on 29 April regarding Freshwater Farm Plans. You submitted your email as an official information request through the website <https://fyi.org.nz/>. However, your request does not relate to any official information I or my officials hold. I am therefore declining your request, and responding to you directly as the matters you raise fall under my portfolio responsibilities as the Minister of Agriculture.

The coalition Government is committed to reducing the regulatory burden on farmers, while working towards improving environmental outcomes for our waterways. We want to develop a pragmatic and sensible approach to freshwater management.

As part of this work, we intend to simplify and clarify the Freshwater Farm Plans (FWFP) regulations. Reducing cost, minimising duplication, and better matching FWFP requirements to each farm operation's specific risk profile are key areas of focus. The changes are intended to enable farmers and growers to find the right solutions for their farm and catchment. The Government recognises that the FWFP system needs to become a trusted and robust alternative to resource consents.

We are also exploring options for pausing the FWFP system in areas where the rollout has already begun to ensure any improvements made to the system are fair for all farmers and growers.

Thank you again, for taking the time to write to me.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd McClay".

Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Agriculture