

NZ PORK



COMMENTS ON Plan Change 20 to the Mackenzie District Plan – Strategic Chapters

23 August 2022

TO: Mackenzie District Council

FROM: New Zealand Pork Industry Board



Introduction

The New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZPork) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Plan Change 20 to the Mackenzie District Plan – Strategic Directions.

NZPork welcomes any opportunity for further engagement with Mackenzie District Council as the plan change review process progresses. If that extends to a focused session with other rural stakeholders as is happening in other districts reviewing or developing plans, then we would be happy to be involved.

Contact for service:

Penny Cairns
Environmental Advisor
NZPork
PO Box 20176
Christchurch
8543





1. The New Zealand Pork Industry

NZ Pork is a statutory Board funded by producer levies. It actively promotes "100% New Zealand Pork" to support a sustainable and profitable future for New Zealand grown pork. The Board's statutory function is to act in the interests of pig farmers to help attain the best possible net on-going returns while farming sustainably into the future.

The New Zealand pig industry is a highly productive specialised livestock sector, well integrated within New Zealand's primary production economic base. It draws on both downstream and upstream inputs and economic activity from New Zealand's rural sector including feed inputs, equipment and animal health supply, transport, slaughterhouse facilities plus further processing. Currently New Zealand's pig farmers produce around 45,350 tonnes of pig meat per year for New Zealand consumers. This represents around 38% of pig meat consumed by the domestic market, with the other 62% provided by imported pig meat from a range of countries.

Nationally there are less than 100 commercial pork producers, comprising a relatively small but significantly integrated sector of the New Zealand agricultural economy. In 2018 it was estimated by that the total economic activity associated with domestically farmed pigs was approximately \$750 million per annum.



There are a mix of farming styles associated with pork production that include: indoor piggeries, outdoor sows with barn housed growers and finishing units and free range where all pigs are farmed outdoors. Their operations have an important flow-on effect to the community, forming an integral part of the rural economy as they utilise other farming resources such as grains for feed production as well as providing employment. Pig farming is a long-established rural activity adding diversity to the primary production sector and is an important part of the domestic food supply system.

New Zealand's pork producers are facing a number of economic, social and environmental challenges in order to remain viable. The contribution of imported pork to New Zealand's total pork consumption has increased significantly in recent years, placing further demands on local pork producers who have responded by developing increasingly efficient systems and meeting stringent environmental and animal welfare requirements.

Pig farmers in New Zealand have a firm grasp of environmental issues and demonstrate a high level of innovation and environmental stewardship. The New Zealand pork industry has committed significant time and resource to Sustainable Farming Fund projects centred on environmental initiatives, including development and implementation of Environmental Guidelines and Nutrient Management Guidelines. However, profit margins for the industry remain tight and dialogue with farmers has indicated that compliance costs and uncertainty into the future are key issues.

2. Comments

The key points of feedback to the proposed plan provided below. Specific submission points are detailed in Section 3.

Strategic Direction

Chapter: ATC – A Thriving Community

We support the introduction to this section that recognises the predominant rural nature of the District. The issues of incompatible activities and reverse sensitivity, the need to maintain primary production diversity, the need for resilience and adaptability to climate change are all matters of significance for primary production. We note that while the chapter is locally focused (a thriving Mackenzie District community) the District's primary production activities provide benefits outside of the District and support a national primary production system.



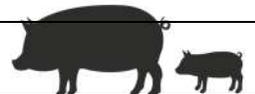
Chapter: UFD – Urban Form and Development

Intensification and greenfield growth at the interface of townships and settlements with the rural environment can affect primary production through the loss of access to the resources required to sustain primary production and through conflict and reverse sensitivity. UFD-O1 would be improved by recognising this issue.



3. Specific submissions on the PC20 to the MDP

Provision to which our submission relates:	Our submission is:	We seek the following decision from the Mackenzie District Council:
Part 2 – District-Wide Matters		
Section: Strategic Direction		
Chapter: ATC – A Thriving Community		
Introduction	<p>We support the introduction to this section that recognises the predominant rural nature of the District.</p> <p>The issues of incompatible activities and reverse sensitivity, the need to maintain primary production diversity, the need for resilience and adaptability to climate change are matters of significance for primary production.</p> <p>We note that while the chapter is locally focused (a thriving Mackenzie District community) the District’s primary production activities provide benefits outside of the District and support a national primary production system.</p>	Retain introduction as notified.
Strategic Objectives: ATC-O2 Rural Areas	<p>We support the specific Strategic Objective for Rural Areas that <u>recognises</u> and <u>provides</u> for the significant contribution of rural areas to the well-beings of the District.</p> <p>The Strategic Objective ATC-O2 is able to be translated into more focused rural zone objectives and policies that would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u><i>The primary production role and food producing capacity of the District's rural environment is retained, and is not compromised by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.</i></u> 	Retain ATC-O2 as notified.



	<p>2. <u>Primary production is able to operate efficiently and effectively and the contribution rural activities make to the economic and social well-being through food production is recognised.</u></p>	
<p>Chapter: UFD – Urban Form and Development</p>		
<p>Strategic Objectives: UFD-O1 Urban Form and Development</p>	<p>Intensification and greenfield growth at the interface of townships and settlements with the rural environment can affect primary production through the loss of access to the resources required to sustain primary production and through conflict and reverse sensitivity.</p> <p>UFD-O1 would be improved by recognising this issue.</p>	<p>Amend UFD-O1 as follows:</p> <p><i>The District's townships and settlements grow and develop in a consolidated way that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>is integrated into, and respects the values of the surrounding natural and physical environment;</i> 2. <i>achieves good connectivity with other parts of the urban area;</i> 3. <i>is supported by appropriate infrastructure;</i> 4. <i>maintains the character of each township, and its attractiveness to residents, businesses and visitors; and</i> 5. <i>responds to the needs of the community, including diversity in housing and business opportunities.</i> 6. <u><i>responds to the rural/urban interface to maintain primary production and avoid reverse sensitivity effect.</i></u>

