

THE RURAL PROOFING PROCESS

What is Rural Proofing?

Rural Proofing is a process for taking into account the circumstances and needs of the **rural community** (rural people and rural businesses) when developing and implementing policy.

Rural Proofing recognises that the rural community is an important part of the New Zealand community and that the New Zealand economy is highly dependent on rural-based businesses.

Industries based on the agriculture and forestry sectors generate about 70 percent of our merchandise exports. Rural-based tourism makes a significant contribution to the rural economy.

THE STEPS TO TAKE

- 1. CONFIRM YOUR POLICY OBJECTIVES:** What are the objectives of your proposed policy? What is the problem? What are the intended outcomes? What is your proposed method of delivery?
- 2. IDENTIFY THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS** of your policy for the rural community using the **IMPLICATIONS CHECKLIST**. Think about whether rural people and businesses can access infrastructure or services, and the quality and cost of access if they can.
- 3. SEEK ADVICE** from organisations that operate within the rural community or represent rural businesses. This step is particularly important if you are unsure about your answers to Step 2 or Step 4 or if you are undertaking consultation. Some useful contacts are listed below. Local councils can also be a useful source of local information.
- 4. ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS OF YOUR POLICY:** Are they significantly different for the rural community than for the urban community?
- 5. USE THE MITIGATION MEASURES LIST** to identify options for achieving your policy objectives and maximising the positive implications for the rural community.
- 6. AMEND** your policy, consultation processes or implementation plans where mitigation measures are practicable.
- 7. IDENTIFY UNRESOLVED IMPLICATIONS** and inform relevant ministers and departments.

»» USEFUL CONTACTS

Federated Farmers of NZ (www.fedfarm.org.nz)
Horticulture New Zealand (www.hortnz.co.nz)
Rural Women New Zealand (www.ruralwomen.org)
Māori Women's Welfare League (PO Box 12 072, Thorndon, Wellington)
Federation of Māori Authorities (www.foma.co.nz)
NZ Forest Owners Association (www.nzfoa.org.nz)
Wood Processors Association of NZ (www.wpa.org.nz)

Meat Industry Association of New Zealand (www.mia.co.nz)
Dairy Companies Association of NZ (www.dcanz.com)
New Zealand Rural General Practice Network (www.rgpn.org.nz)
Te Kāhui Māngai: Directory of Iwi and Māori Organisations (www.tekahuimangai.govt.nz)
Local Councils website (www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lqip.nsf)

