



Clutha Water Quality Project 2018-2020

Our Farms-Our Water-Our Future



Vision and Goals

To establish a standalone farmer led catchment group network in the Lower Clutha area.
Involve all stakeholders and iwi in the formulation and direction of the catchment groups:

- Educate via encouragement rather than enforcement
- Know what is in our waterway
- Know what our individual farms are contributing to the waterways
- Improve awareness by building knowledge so best practice becomes normal practice
- Have waterways that provide healthy ecosystems and are safe to swim, play and fish in

What we have done

The project started in 2015 in response to The Water Plan water quality requirements

Promoted and provided on farm discharge testing

Encouraged the group's members to learn about their contribution to water quality

Results nights included education on water testing and good on farm management practices.

A successful project with 160 farm members.

Why Change

The project had reached a plateau of members.

A desire to have Farmer lead catchment groups

A desire to work with and have all stakeholders in the river involved.
Good management practises and perception becoming essential to maintain our reputation as environmentally focused producers of protein for the local and international markets.

Where to from here

We have secured funding for a 2-year scoping project:

- To set up farmer lead catchment groups in the area
- Work with stakeholders to develop requirements of groups in the future
- Link with existing industry programmes
- Continue with water testing and presentation of results
- Promote good management practises.
- Involve schools and community with water health and riparian planting
- Increase awareness via farmer to farmer discussions as well as using media
- Inform general public

Identification of information gaps and specific catchment requirements will be used as the foundation of ongoing funding applications Future funding applications need to be submitted by July 2019.

Why join

As farmers we need to be proactive in water quality management.

As an industry we need to ensure **all** farmers are environmentally astute

Farmers are in control of their destination but need to take responsibility.

Local and international markets are becoming focused on place of origin and environmental impacts of their food.

If The Water Plan is taken away from farmers an expensive structured consenting process is likely to be introduced. We must work together to avoid a regimented rule-based process we have no say in. Remember Plan 6A comes into effect in April 2019.

For more information, please contact:

Lloyd McCall

Project Manager

lloyd@m90fs.co.nz

027 248 9090

Shelley Phillips

Administration Manager, Clutha Development

shelley@cluthanz.com

027 418 1133



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