

## What's involved in getting a Whole Farm Plan (WFP)?

**This is a brief outline of the Whole Farm Plan process. At all stages communication is important and if you have any queries you should contact your local environmental management officer for soils (EMOS) immediately.**

Initial contact will either be made by Horizons if you are in a high priority area, or you may have contacted us because you believe your property would benefit from a WFP.

We will visit your property to assess your needs and priority and give you more information on the WFP process.

Horizons needs to prioritise your needs against others in a fair and equitable manner. Once this has been done we will be able to tell you when you could expect the on-farm assessment work to start. Once your details have been confirmed, we will need the following information from you:

- Your farm boundaries and paddocks drawn on a map supplied by us.
- Your contact and property details so our contractors can contact you.
- Your audited accounts will need to be forwarded to our financial contractor.

Close to the start date we will arrange a meeting to introduce you to the team that will carry out the on-farm mapping. At this time we can clarify access issues, timing and opportunities for you to participate in field work.

Horizons staff or other contractors will conduct the land mapping by on-farm assessment based on rock type, soil, slope, vegetation and erosion to produce a Land Resource Inventory. Information will also be collected on water resources, biodiversity and farm infrastructure. You are encouraged to assist and be present for some of the farm mapping work if possible which will take two or three people two or three days, depending on property size and accessibility.

Whoever leads the mapping exercise will also collect a number of details such as fertiliser application and soil test history, stock numbers, farm policy and farm management history. Parts of this information will be used in the business analysis.

It is expected that there will be several meetings between you and the WFP team during the final stages of preparation to negotiate a mutually acceptable plan.

Horizons will then produce the final document which will be returned to you for sign-off. At this stage a letter of intent will be signed explaining the commitments. In future we may require a more legally binding document however this will depend upon the levels of financial investment. The work programme can now begin.

## MANAGING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Horizons will organise another meeting to discuss a programme to monitor progress and any changes over time. This could include soil, water and biodiversity changes. Your EMOS will be in regular contact to ensure the programme is successful.

At any stage until final sign-off of the plan, you can pull out of the WFP process. Once signed off we would have an expectation that the agreed programme will proceed. However we do realise circumstances can change, so your local EMOS will be available to discuss and negotiate changes.

Note: The information collected will eventually be available on Horizons' databases, ie soil and erosion maps. Financial information remains personal to you and will not be released in a manner that enables identification of any individual's circumstances.

