

## REMIT 1: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES AND ADVERSE EVENTS PLANS

**Remit:** THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. encourage Central and Local Government to support and consult with rural communities in developing Climate Change Strategies and Adverse Events Plans to ensure these are rural-proofed. Where such strategies and plans are already in place, these should be proactively communicated to rural communities to enhance readiness and response awareness and capability.

**Rationale:** Adverse events, especially storms and droughts, are predicted to happen with increasing frequency and impact across Aotearoa New Zealand. There is a real need for rural communities, especially those that are remote, to know what government is proposing re the local and national response to climate change and adverse events. This would help rural communities to understand what to expect and plan their own response accordingly.

Rural communities need to have input into the development of climate change and adverse event strategies and plans to ensure the decisions/actions/response are sufficiently rural-proofed (that the implications of policies and programmes for rural communities have been assessed).

Rural Proofing provides a starting point for agencies to consider issues such as the difficulties that isolation, limited service provision and infrastructure constraints place on rural households, communities and businesses. A key step in the Rural Proofing process is for policy advisors to seek advice from relevant rural contacts and organizations. RWNZ has a place in ensuring this process is followed.

**Objectives:** To ensure rural communities feel safe and supported in anticipation of, and at, times of need.

**Action Plan:** Rural Women NZ approach Central Government (MPI and others) with this proposal and support agencies helping rural communities to ensure climate change and adverse events strategies and plans are sufficiently rural-proofed through rural communities being engaged in the preparation and communication of these.

### **Financial Implications to RWNZ:**

Small - any costs incurred could be covered by a grant from the likes of MPI

**Proposed by:** Fiona Gower, Region 6 Greater Waikato

**Seconded by:** Denise Irvine, Region 6 Greater Waikato

*“Thank you. Our journey thus far has been plagued with various set backs through no fault of our own. This will be a godsend and is a ray of light in a otherwise dull and gloomy situation.”*

*“Thank you so much for our Relief payment. It is so heartwarming to know we are not forgotten.”*



## REMIT 2: GENETIC ENGINEERING AND GENETIC MODIFICATION RESEARCH

**Remit:** THAT Rural Women New Zealand Inc. encourage the opening up of discussions around the possible use of GE and GM research in New Zealand as an option to help address viability challenges facing the primary sector.

**Rationale:** We are suggesting that perhaps it is time to look at whether there is a place for research into the use of GE/GM where it could make a beneficial difference to our primary sector. We are referring to research into grass and other forage varieties as well as in our livestock breeding programmes

We need to begin to look how to mitigate against the climatic, political, economic challenges being faced by our country and the primary sector in particular. Is this one way to do it?

Is it time we look at what the likes of Agresearch have in their toolbox of trials to see what is there?

Is it time to look at what other countries have that could work here after stringent trials?

We believe it is also timely for RWNZ to discuss this topic given the increasing impacts of climate change and adverse events on rural communities.

**Objectives:** To encourage the opening of discussions into the use of GE/GM research on plant varieties and livestock management that could be beneficial to the primary sector and rural communities.

**Action Plan:** RWNZ to support the likes of MPI, MBIE, and any other pertinent Ministries, our research facilities, such as Agresearch and Lincoln University, along with other rural stakeholder and industry groups such as Federated Farmers, Dairy NZ and Beef and Lamb to work together to investigate and report back to their stakeholders on whether it is acceptable and viable or not.

### **Financial Implications to RWNZ:**

There will be some costs, covering the costs of attending hui and then researching the options and the opinions of New Zealanders, hopefully much covered by industry good bodies and central government

**Proposed by:** Fiona Gower, Region 6 Greater Waikato

**Seconded by:** Bronwyn Main, Region 6 Greater Waikato

*“Oh thank you so much! You have no idea how much this makes a difference.”*

*“Thank you so much for your email and support, this has given me a much needed boost, both practically and emotionally.”*