

Rotorua Lakes project Updates:

Parekarangi trial report:

High Rainfall OVERSEER calibration trials:

The application of the OVERSEER model in a high rainfall catchment was identified as a gap in the application of the programme to the Lake Rotorua catchment. Apparently OVERSEER has been calibrated from research in areas with annual rainfall up to about 1200 mm. Rainfalls within the Rotorua catchment can be as high as 2500mm.

As a result of the research gap identified by the LandTAG, AgRes approached BOPRC and DNZ about the possibility of undertaking a trial in the higher rainfall areas of the Rotorua catchment. AgRes is funding the first year of a 4 year trial, with the subsequent years being funded primarily by BOPRC, DNZ and a small ongoing contribution from AgRes.

The CE of the OVERSEER programme has indicated an interest in the outcome of the trials and that they would consider the results with respect to OVERSEER with the possibility of using them to contribute to a future calibration.

The trial has commenced. The project is led by Stewart Ledgard of AgRes. Two trials have been set up on dairy farms in the Rotorua Catchment. One is located at Mamaku on podzol soils and the other is located at Kaharoa on pumice soils. Rainfalls in these areas are in the range of 2,000 to 2,300mm.

A range of properties were assessed for suitability for the trial. A number of factors were considered including: soil types, rainfalls, farming system history. The trials will run until the 2018/19 financial year when the report will be completed.

Low N land use fund:

To date interest in the LNLUF has been good with nearly a dozen genuine enquiries. Applications for the first step (EOI) close on 20th May; those who pass this stage will be invited to submit full applications by the 30 June. The full applications will be assessed by Suzie G, Dave C and Dave H against criteria developed with stakeholders. The final decision on applications will be made by RTALSG on the 30 August 2016. Note these dates are different than previously proposed due to a change in Council Committee meetings.

Advice and Support: Summary for LandTAG Meeting

The Nitrogen Discharge Allowance is the amount of nitrogen that is permitted to be discharged from a property in 2032 and is based on land use on the property during 2001-04.

However a Current State Assessment is required to show the level of effort that is required to get from where a property is currently at to where it needs to be in 2032.

31 Current State Assessments have now been completed through the Advice and Support Service and the level of effort based on various land uses is shown below.

