



Community perceptions of the potential impact of the 1 Billion Trees Programme in Wairoa

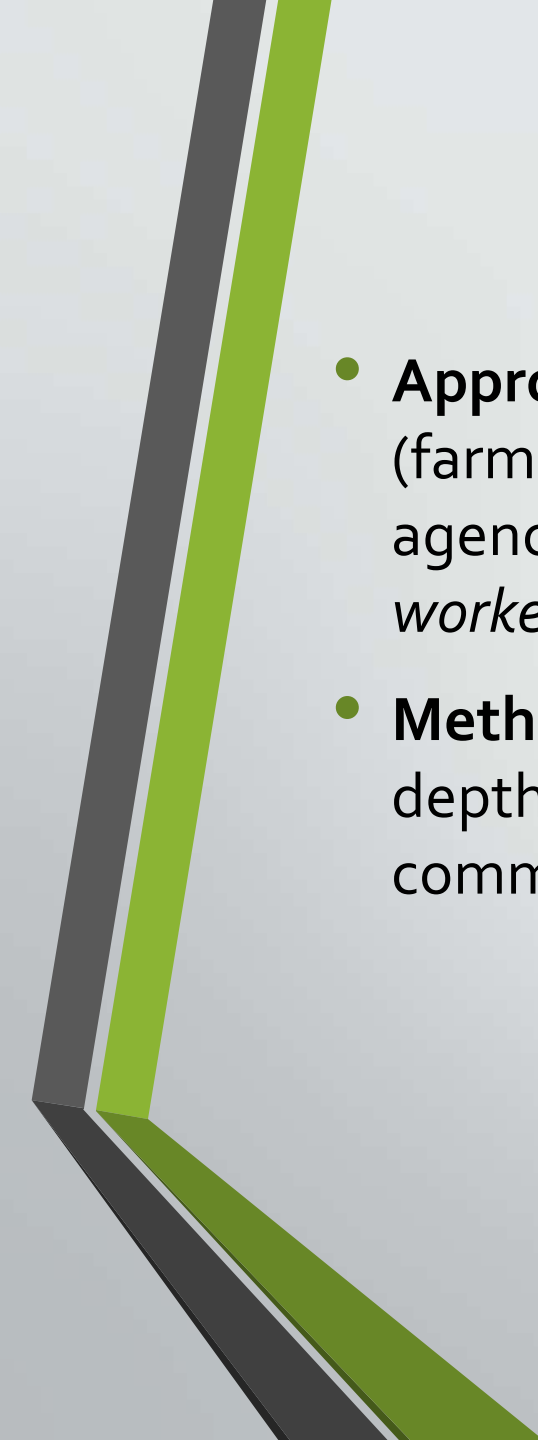
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Focus: 1 Billion Trees Programme (500million)

- **Policy Objectives** – part of Government’s response to climate change, introduce carbon credits as factor in afforestation, reduce erosion, improve water quality, improve habitats, increase biodiversity, create jobs, generate income – in effect support social well-being
- **Regional Community Perspective** - tease out Wairoa community attitudes towards this programme as source of information for decision-makers and to assist process of implementation

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- **Approach** - Whole system (holistic) approach seek-out views of *land-users* (farmers, foresters, tangata whenua, farm supply companies and service agencies); *scientists and other researchers; policy analysts, and extension workers*, other Wairoa residents
 - **Method** – Qualitative (but not ignoring statistical data) face-to-face in-depth interviews, questionnaire surveys, focus groups, and participation in community meetings



Two questions to address today:

1. What have we found? (and how do we explain?)

2. How do we move forward? (what can we expect to occur?)

So, what have we found?

- **Land users** (Farmers) – Resolutely anti-afforestation - wide ranging multiple concerns
- **Corporate forestry groups** – See afforestation as market driven and to some extent self-limiting – land prices, etc.
- **Tangata whenua** – See increased afforestation as fitting with cultural concepts of environmental protection and well-being, but conditional on retaining land ownership, establishing protocols and balance of afforestation/pastoral agriculture and job training
- **Scientists/researchers** – Essentially supportive of Programme – see value of goals. But understand farmers' perceived threat to their own identity
- **Policy analysts** – Accept Programme. National level focus on strength of policy and its effective roll-out; Regional/district concerns focus on stakeholders' attitudes/values in effective implementation
- **Broad community** – Spans attitudes of different groups (which side they are currently work in) – winners and losers

How do we move forward?

- The Census of 1986 (prior to the last forestry boom in the 1990s) recorded **117 paid employees** in forestry/logging in the Wairoa District. In 2018 the Census recorded **57 paid employees**. The projected major increase in paid forestry employment in Wairoa has not eventuated.
- Since 1996 the total area of productive forest has increased from **45,352ha** to **55,821ha**
- Since 1986 number of paid employees in farming has fallen **from 588 to 372**. The number of farms has declined from **454 to 375** and the average farm size has increased. (Across East Coast Hill Country, drop in permanent farm labour from 1970 till 2016/17 - 69%)

Need to talk!