

Draft Waikato Future Proof Strategy

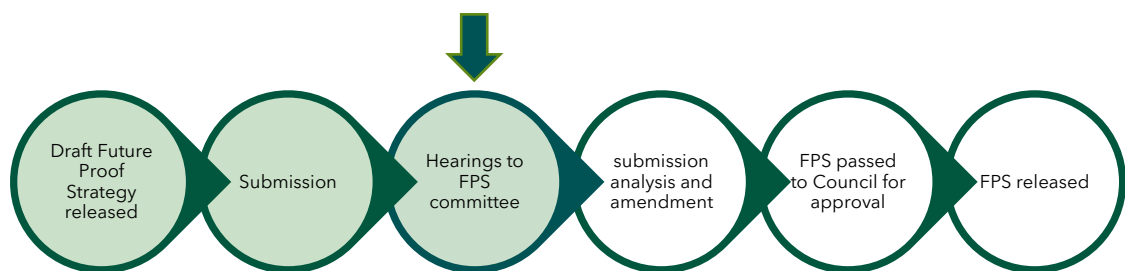
Waikato Region | March 2024

What is the draft Future Proof Strategy?

The Waikato Future Proof Strategy is a 30-year plan providing planning direction to cater for the future needs of a growing population. Primarily this focuses on urban development and providing planning direction on where housing and infrastructure growth will be located. The Future Proof Strategy is prepared to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPSUD)

This is a foundational document that can be used to inform higher order documents such as Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans. It sets the direction for population growth planning in a region

Horticulture NZ has provided a written and oral submission to the draft Future Proof Strategy.



Summary of HortNZ submission

Horticulture NZ has concerns that the Draft Future Proof Strategy (DFPS) is creating an artificial and non-evidence based productive/food production value separation of land use class (LUC) 1 land from LUC 2 and 3 land.

Horticulture NZ believes that the DFPS needs to be consistent in its approach and terminology of LUC 1, 2 and 3 land as it is directed in the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPSHPL) which came into effect 17 October 2022 where the productive capacity of LUC 1, 2 and 3 land is considered as a single entity.

Waikato Regional Council has not given effect to the NPSHPL or completed the mapping of land as is required by the NPSHPL and therefore it is inappropriate to be providing direction on what can occur on LUC 1, 2 and 3 land

Growers use all classes of land to achieve an effective rotation, land availability is the primary driving factor ahead of land use class - land that has been available as primary production land is becoming less available as development in Auckland and Waikato regions increases.

There needs to be consideration for what is needed to support a growing population, including fresh fruits and vegetables to support feeding the increased population.

Horticulture NZ challenges the evidential basis for this approach.

This region recognises the Pukekohe Hub as an area of nationally significant food production. The majority of the growing land in the HUB is LUC 2 and 3.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Waikato Regional Council: [The Strategy - Future Proof](#)
- Keep an eye on HortNZ's website: [Home | Horticulture New Zealand – Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa \(hortnz.co.nz\)](#)
- Contact: Leanne Roberts - leanne.roberts@hortnz.co.nz