

Mike Butterick Speech

Why are we here?

Because we **are not** being listened to.

All we have ever asked for is a fair go.

This should **never** have degenerated into an 'us versus them', we have always advocated for the right tree in the right place.

This is about the policy settings that are distorting the natural market and providing a competitive advantage to carbon farmers.

We **have never** stated that we won't do anything; in fact we have been for a long time.

We have about the equivalent area of all of the forestry of NZ in woody vegetation (1.8million hectares)¹

We have 4500 QE11 covenants protecting biodiversity in NZ, comprising some 180,000 hectares (that's 360,000 rugby fields) and we apparently still don't do enough?²

Our emissions profile of natural gas, methane, emitted by animals since the dawn of time, is up only 5% since 1990, NZ's man-made gas, carbon, from vehicle emissions are up 95%.³We hear plans of airports in NZ to double throughput by 2040 and not even a ripple in the media.

Why is this not part of the conversation?

It isn't equitable

If all measurable offsets on farm were allowed to be counted, we are probably already there.

The government have shown a propensity to ignore advice if it doesn't fit their agenda, even from their own parliamentary minister for the environment.⁴

They not only ignore intelligent advice, they also cherry pick from it, the data that suits them to support their ideas.

We'll be world leaders we're told, well, **we already are.**

We can produce a kilo of meat or a litre of milk with about half the carbon footprint of the rest of the world.⁵

That's what we **should** be telling the world.

We should be celebrating, instead we are under siege.

I would liken it to getting an excellence in an exam and then at the same time being given a detention for not trying hard enough.

The government is happy to drive a wedge between urban and provincial in NZ **and** to allow the myth to permeate, that we are almost **solely responsible** for the current situation.

They are also happy to encourage thinking that the agricultural sector is getting away with it; do farmers not also use vehicles and electricity that emit man-made gases?

Never before have I witnessed such an attack on provincial NZ and seen people under so much mental stress.

We want a fair go on our well being.

This is ideology versus reality

The much maligned dairy farmers have fenced off 1.25 times the distance from the North Pole to the South Pole (some 25,000 km's)⁶. If they are made to move this fencing this would be a legislated taking, which could result in an \$800million compensation claim.

No economic analysis and when it is, it's a foot note. \$12billion per year for the ZCB⁷ and now a further \$6-\$9billion⁸ for the water policies. Makes the much touted \$7.5billion surplus this year look a bit pathetic. By the way the ZCB impact is about \$8k cost per every household in NZ every year.

From lobby group 50SOG, to various sector groups, to Mayors from the provinces, the concerns have been ignored

This is **not** how you engage, we've even been told to '**get over it**' when concerns have **justifiably** been raised.

Carbon emitters aren't offsetting, **they're offloading, they are abdicating their responsibilities.**

The government are happy for them to offset their man-made gases with forestry, on **productive** farmland, which is a one hit, short term, band-aid, destroying everything we cherish, as communities, meanwhile the emitters are not changing their behaviour.

This isn't **remotely** ethical

Provincial NZ, all of the people that reside within it, and this is what defines us as a nation, will be collateral damage. This is already starting to be felt in the business sector.

Confidence is **non-existent**.

The government seem to be blissfully unaware of the messaging they are sending to the investment sector, both domestically and internationally⁹.

This will result in a landslide of irreversible change, which will only achieve a temporary reprieve, and **will never** create an incentive for carbon emitters to change their behaviour.

Why allow a short term band aid when we have a proud history as a no8 nation, another term for innovation and adaptation, why aren't we concentrating all our time, our efforts and money into real solutions?

We are being used as scapegoats but the reality is that without farmers the world would be naked, hungry and sober.

It's never wise to bite the hand that feeds you.

I despair for the future of provincial Nzer's under the current direction.

The message is that we are here, we need to be heard.

We are not bad people, we are real people, we are families, and we are inter-generational custodians of our land.

This is not just about us; it is about our children, and their children

We matter and we are not being listened to

¹ Desk-top assessment of native vegetation on New Zealand sheep and beef farms, David Norton and Jennifer Pannell School of Forestry, University of Canterbury, Christchurch and Institute for Applied Ecology, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland 13 June 2018 available at <<https://beeflambnz.com/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Norton%20Vegetation%20occurrence%20sheep%20beef%20farms.pdf>

² QE11 National Trust- 4,503 covenants since 1977 and comprising a total area of 180,258 hectares

³ 1990-2017 Ruminant Methane (CH₄) 1990-2017 4.6% increase (page 149), Road Transport 93.40% increase (page 96). (MFE national greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2017 available at <<https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/state-of-our-atmosphere-and-climate/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory>)

⁴ a-2.1 “increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT THREATEN FOOD PRODUCTION”. (Paris Agreement, United Nations Treaty Collection. 8 July 2016. Archived from the original on 21 August 2016, available at <https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf>Paris Accord)

b-Simon Upton- Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment “Farmers should be able to use forests to offset methane and nitrous oxide emissions” and “fossil fuel emitters should NOT be allowed to use forest to offset their gas” (Farmers Weekly 27th May 2019)

⁵ The global average GHG per litre of milk is 2.5 kg CO₂e /kg fat and protein corrected milk (FPCM). New Zealand milk is in the range of just 0.8- 0.9 kg CO₂e /kg FPCM.

The global average for the greenhouse emissions produced for 100g of lamb is 2.6 kg CO₂e. 100 grams of New Zealand lamb produces just 1.9 kg CO₂e

(Climate Change and the Global Dairy Cattle Sector: The role of the dairy sector in a low-carbon future, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the Global Dairy Platform Inc, Rome 2019, pp.26

Ledgard, S.F., Chobtang, J., Falconer, S.J. and McLaren, S., 2016. Life cycle assessment of dairy production systems in New Zealand, Integrated nutrient and water management for sustainable farming. (Eds L.D. Currie and R.Singh).

<http://flrc.massey.ac.nz/publications.html>. Occasional Report No. 29. Fertilizer and Lime Research Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand. 8 pages. LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT

Clune, Stephen, Enda Crossin, and Karli Verghese. "Systematic review of greenhouse gas emissions for different fresh food categories.

Ledgard, S.F., Lieffering, M., McDevitt, J., Boyes, M. and Kemp, R. 2010 A Greenhouse Gas Footprint Study for Exported New Zealand Lamb, Agreserch, available at <<https://www.mia.co.nz/assets/MIA-Publications/Greenhouse-gas-footprint-study-for-exported-NZ-lamb.-March-2010.pdf>>

⁶ 24,744km's of waterways fenced (97.5%) on dairy farms- DairyNZ

⁷ Regulatory Impact Assessment: Zero Carbon Bill, 3 May 2019, Ministry for the Environment, available at <<https://treasury.govt.nz/publications/risa/regulatory-impact-assessment-zero-carbon-bill>> pp. 10

⁸ Farmers Weekly 4th November 2019 and Rural News 5th November 2019- DairyNZ and Beef and Lamb

⁹ It is proposed that the current price cap of \$25 per carbon unit (Emissions Trading Scheme) will be lifted 2022 and there is a likelihood of a 'floor' being implemented at the same time. 2019 'averaging' was introduced which looks like it will settle at 17-18 years of carbon units 'earned' not having a liability to be repaid. There will also not be a liability incurred to repay same units if the forest is affected by an adverse event (fire, storm, etc) so long as the forest is replanted within 4 years.