

COPY

Attachment 1 to
Report 00.311

File: Y/4/1 :LAR

19 April 2000

Mr Robert Isbister
General Manager
Animal Health Board
P O Box 3412
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Isbister

Wellington Region Future Vector Control Programmes

The Wellington Regional Council's proposed ten-year plan, incorporating the annual plan for 2000/01, have just been released for public consultation. A copy is enclosed for your information. This Annual Plan document has some specific comments on the Bovine Tb programme and funding on page 42 of Volume one and pages 34 and 35 of Volume two.

My Council is very keen to build on the progress achieved so far in addressing bovine Tb in the Wellington Region. Therefore included within the Council's proposed budgets for future years is provision for maintaining all existing bovine Tb vector control areas in the region plus the commencement of four new operations in south east Wairarapa during the next four years. These new areas of Tora, Palliser, Hinakura, and Te Awaaiti are consistent with discussions held with your officers some time ago.

However, there are two aspects related to Animal Health Board funding that now cause my Council significant concerns as follows:

1. Many months ago this Council submitted to the Board a proposed Eradication Zone in North Wairarapa as it believed the area concerned qualified for this status in terms of the National Strategy for Bovine Tb. Hence the Council's budgets are based upon this Eradication Zone being approved and funded at the appropriate rate by the Animal Health Board. To date there is no indication that this Eradication Zone is to be approved.
2. Recent indications from the Board's staff are that an expanded operational programme in the Wellington region is unlikely to be funded next year even if the Board is successful in obtaining an additional \$5 million that it is seeking from the Crown.

My Council is very disappointed at the situation that now appears to have developed. This Council has always demonstrated a strong commitment, on behalf of its regional community, to addressing the Bovine Tb issue in conjunction with the Animal Health Board. It has held expectations that the Animal Health Board would support an increased programme in its region. However, it now appears that the Animal Health Board's priorities are to firstly expand vector control programmes in other areas. The result of this is that the Council is likely to have to significantly reduce its proposed budgets for next year and probably subsequent years as well. Once removed, this additional funding will be very difficult to include back within the Council's ten-year plan.

Council representatives will raise these concerns at the meeting planned with Animal Health Board representatives on the morning of 29 May. However, in the meantime it would be appreciated if you could advise of the Board's present position on these matters.

Yours sincerely

Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa

Enc.