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Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa
Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 41
MASTERTON

Dear Cohn

Thank you for your letter of 19 April concerning future vector control programmes.

With respect to the proposed Eradication Zone (EZ) for North Wairarapa the funding situation is currently unclear. At this point it is not obvious when the Crown will be prepared to indicate if they can provide additional funds for next year (and how much). Their budget is not due to be announced until June. It is conceivable we will not know their position until then, although we would hope to know something before this.

If one assumed no additional funds were made available then clearly we would not have the additional funds for the EZ for 2000/01.

On the other hand, if a significant proportion of the extra funds sought became available then we probably will be able to fund this initiative starting next year.

The problem, Cohn, is that we simply do not know where we stand at this time. Rest assured we do support the establishment of the EZ sooner rather than later. Given a positive outcome with respect to the Crown, we hope to see North Wairarapa moving to this status (with the appropriate funding adjustments) next year.

I might add, while we assume the EZ status would free up Council funds for other parts of the Wairarapa, unless the Board received the full additional amount we have requested from the Crown for next year, it is virtually impossible to see matching funds for such new operations being available from the Board.

Our mission is to eradicate bovine tuberculosis from New Zealand

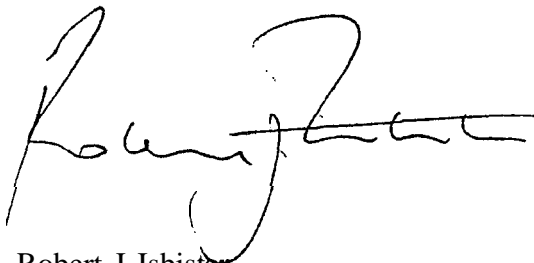
Beyond 2000/01 is another story. If we succeed in gaining all of the additional Crown Funds, as outlined in the NPMS strategy discussion paper then yes, we are proposing to support such additional initiatives.

So in summary, Colin, please bear with us as we await the outcome of the Crown's deliberations in respect to their budget for 2000/01. As soon as we have any substantive advice (either way!) we will be in touch.

I might add, that we do know that the behind the scenes lobbying that has been undertaken by the Councils to encourage the Crown to provide additional funds is, from our perspective, having a positive effect.

Yours sincerely

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Robert J Isbister
GENERAL MANAGER