



1 April 1997

SO15/02
jhsocDOG

David Bayvel
MAF Regulatory Authority
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Wellington

WORKING COPY

Dear David

Proposed extension of pilot programme re local authorities and dog control

We have now examined the draft memo to the Minister of Agriculture. The advantage of extending the proposed pilot programme to include other local authorities include -

- contestability in the supply of services
- enhanced ability to provide service to ratepayers on a one-stop shop basis
- prevention of doubling up of resources.

However, local government would not be keen to be 'obliged' to conduct the suggested services. The creeping devolution of functions, without opportunity for cost recovery, is a matter of concern. Cost recovery opportunities must be considered in parallel with your proposal to extend the pilot programme.

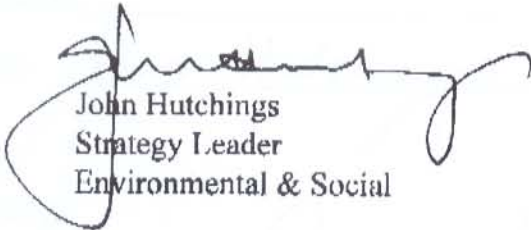
Your para 9 refers to the Local Government Association. Please note that we are now referred to as *Local Government New Zealand*.

Your paper contains references to regional councils, alongside territorial authorities, as potential participants in an extended programme. Regional councils have no dog control responsibilities currently. Nor does there appear to be a close relationship between the pest management responsibilities of councils and dogs. We consider that it is therefore appropriate to only reference territorial authorities in your paper.

You have also made reference to the fact that there are a number of 'other' local bodies who have expressed interest in participating in a phase 2 extension of the Waitakere programme. We would be pleased to know who these bodies are and what the nature of the expressed interest has been.

We trust that the above is of assistance. Please note that we have not discussed this matter with our member authorities. The views expressed here are of officers alone and are based on our expectation of the reaction of members.

Yours sincerely



John Hutchings
Strategy Leader
Environmental & Social

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