

Balfour Catchment Group

Balfour Catchment Group was established in 2020, representing a significant effort by local farmers and other landowners to address the environmental challenges facing the area.

The Group comprises a cross-section of sheep, beef, dairy, deer, horticulture and arable farmers. This diverse membership provides a broad range of experience, enabling members to address the complex challenges facing the Balfour catchment area.

The Group is currently working on the 'Targeted Solutions to Balfour's Environmental Challenges' project.

BEYOND REGULATION - WHOLE OF MATAURA & BALFOUR

Farmers are working with scientists to deliver a valuable tool that will benefit rural communities across New Zealand using satellite and airborne data to develop a model of landscape properties highlighting variations in soil greenhouse gas emissions and water quality at catchment, farm and paddock scales.

An online portal has been set up so that farmers and rural professionals can easily access the data.

THE BALFOUR PROJECT

This project aims to provide land managers with science-backed information and tools so they can make decisions on-farm that will reduce groundwater nitrate levels and episodic runoff (sediment, phosphorus and e-coli).

The project has two workstreams with the first looking at nitrate challenges on the flats where well-drained, highly weathered soils result in very high groundwater and surface water nitrate levels.

The second workstream looks at run-off from hill country and lowland areas with poorly drained soils with varied land use that contributes sediment, phosphorus, and e-coli that bring about high levels of nitrate in the surface water (fed up from groundwater bodies).

A FEW EVENTS WE ARE PROUD OF:

» Community Evening - March 2021

With members of the community, met at the local pub to talk about why they should be involved in the group and future opportunities.

» Enviroday at Balfour School - 11 November 2021

At this event 80-plus pupils and whānau from Balfour Primary School used Thriving Southland Education Kits to learn about native plants, stream and estuary health and pest control.



PURPOSE:

Balfour Catchment Group's purpose is to give land managers in the area information and guidance to make changes on-farm that improve the environment, are economically viable and backed by science. It is focused on taking action and working together in a strong, purposeful community Group.

UPPER MATAURA CATCHMENT

