

FEDERATED FARMERS HIGH COUNTRY



All Federated Farmers members are allocated into a province and an industry group. There are 24 provinces and seven industry groups.

Federated Farmers High Country industry group (formerly known as the South Island High Country) has a history as long as Federated Farmers' own. It was first constituted as an advisory Board to the Minister of Lands as a result of a meeting of all run-holders held at Tekapo in 1939. When Federated Farmers was incorporated in 1946 that Board was invited to join as part of the Meat & Wool section. The group was accepted as an industry group within Federated Farmers ten years ago.

Although matters relating to pastoral leases have dominated much of the group's work over the years, High Country is also active in presenting the High Country perspective on many other facets of High Country life. High Country has submitted on such issues as district plans, RHD, rural fire, pest control (animal and plant) and has representatives on a number of working groups associated with these matters.

High Country policy is set at the group's Annual Conference, which is normally held in June. A committee of eight provincial representatives plus a Chair (who normally holds office for three years) ensures these policies are effected.



The current Chair is Graham Reed who farms the Grampians Station, a 3,200ha freehold property near Culverden in North Canterbury. Graham lists Government acceptance of "alternative mechanisms" for protection of significant natural areas under Tenure Review, the threat of woody weed spread and animal (particularly rabbit) pest control as the major issues facing High Country at the moment. You are welcome to contact Graham to discuss any issues you may have.

Shona Sluys, Federated Farmers of NZ Policy Advisor, provides policy advice to the Federated Farmers High Country industry group. She describes her role as, "Supporting the committee, working with Graham to write submissions and consulting with High Country members.

Bob Douglas is the Industry Manager for Federated Farmers High Country. Bob worked in the finance, local government and marketing sectors before joining Federated Farmers 15 years ago. He acts as manager for three of the Federation's industry groups (Bees, Goats and High Country) as well as taking on some policy work.



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