



Summary of Farmers' Position

Farmers are deeply concerned about the potential impacts of the WMR 20-50 Plan on their land, livelihoods, and the future of farming in the region. They fear that urban expansion, restrictive regulations, and expropriation would lead to a loss of valuable agricultural land, reduce food security, and increase operational costs.

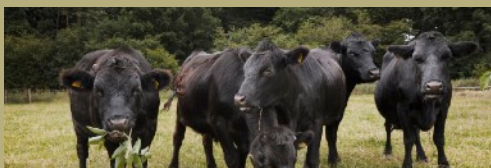
WMR 20-50 PLAN: KEY CONCERNS FOR FARMERS

What Does it Mean for You?



LAND-USE REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

The plan introduces strict land-use regulations that would limit how farmers manage their land. Farmers fear that new zoning laws and regional regulations would infringe on their ability to use their land for agricultural purposes or pass it on to future generations.



PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Farmers are concerned that the WMR 20-50 Plan prioritizes urban growth and development over the protection of valuable agricultural land. Although the plan discusses sustainable land use, the focus on high-density development and infrastructure projects will result in the loss of prime farmland.



EXPROPRIATION THREATS

Farmers are particularly concerned about the potential for expropriation under the WMR 20-50 Plan. The Plan gives the WMR Board the authority to expropriate land for infrastructure projects or other regional needs, which would result in farmers losing land that has been in their families for generations.



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IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

Farmers play a vital role in ensuring regional food security. By threatening agricultural land and imposing restrictive land-use policies, the Plan will reduce local food production and hurt farmers' ability to sustain their livelihoods.



INCREASED REGULATORY BURDEN

Farmers are already subject to multiple layers of regulation, and the WMR 20-50 Plan introduces an additional bureaucratic layer. The need to comply with new regional policies and submit detailed reports will add to the administrative burden and increase costs.



LACK OF REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION

Farmers feel excluded from the decision-making process. The WMR Board is not elected by local citizens, and there has been limited engagement with rural communities. This lack of representation raises concerns that farmers' voices will not be heard when it comes to decisions that affect their land and livelihoods.

WHAT FARMERS WANT

Strong Protections for Agricultural Land: Farmers need clear and enforceable policies that prioritize the preservation of farmland and prevent unnecessary urban encroachment.

Local Decision-Making Authority: Farmers want municipalities to retain control over land-use decisions that affect their agricultural communities, without undue influence from regional boards.

Assurances Against Expropriation: Farmers seek protections against the threat of expropriation, ensuring that their land cannot be taken arbitrarily.

Inclusive Consultation: Farmers deserve to be actively involved in the decision-making process and for their concerns to be taken seriously through proper consultation.

Balance Between Urban and Rural Needs: Farmers are calling for the Plan to consider rural realities and ensure that sustainability efforts include the protection of agriculture as a vital component of the region's future

Cancellation of Current Plan: Farmers want a complete scrapping of the current WMR Plan 20-50, including the removal of all staff and contributors to the existing plan. The current plan is so fundamentally flawed that it is impossible for the existing team to create a new one.