



25 March 2020

## **Red Meat Profit Partnership and Beef + Lamb New Zealand COVID-19 update**

### **An important message for facilitators, farmers, subject matter experts and connectors involved with Action Groups.**

As the situation regarding COVID-19 continues to develop, with people now instructed to stay at home, it's important that we look for alternative ways to keep in touch and support friends, family and our communities.

We appreciate that the current situation New Zealand is in, will impact groups and the use of RMPP Action Network funding for planned group activity. We have taken several calls regarding this already, so we've made the decision to extend the availability of this funding through until 30 September 2020. We hope this will give farmers more time to work together to explore ideas and share expert resources to help make positive changes on-farm. This demonstrates our commitment to ensuring farmers still have an opportunity to benefit from the use of this funding.

We understand the importance of social connection to the rural sector and the impact COVID-19 could have on farmer wellbeing. Given Action Groups are no longer able to physically meet, we do encourage you to stay in touch with your Action Group (e.g. by telephone, video calls, social media etc.) as we know they are a valuable social network. Staying connected, talking, listening and sharing stories and advice and, providing support to each other through these uncertain and unsettling times will help us all.

Facilitators and groups will now need to consider new ways of connecting. Both RMPP and B+LNZ are exploring a range of options that could be used to communicate, engage and support farmers at this time and, we ask you to do the same.

Over the next few days, we will be inviting facilitators to meet with us online where we will discuss some of the options, including online tools that are available. If there are any effective tools that facilitators know of or are already using, then we'd encourage you to share them with us all at this meeting.

If you have any questions about staying connected, future group activity or the extension of group funding, please do not hesitate to contact us 0800 733 632 or email [info@actionnetwork.co.nz](mailto:info@actionnetwork.co.nz)

Kind regards

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