

Environment Policy

Introduction:

Barfoote Construction's core principles recognise the need for ecological wisdom to underpin all of our activities we do. We ensure that the fundamental of our Environmental awareness is found throughout our policies, not created just as an add-on.

Key Principles:

All renewable resources must be used only at the rate they can be replenished.

Non-renewable resources must be used efficiently, recycled to our best ability and our people must have a plan to ensure their eventual replacement.

We should not create waste unless it can be converted back into harmless substances.

As an organisation, Barfoote Construction has an obligation to assist its staff in understanding how they depend on, and how they influence, natural processes so they can live sustainably and participate in sustainable development.

Specific Policy Points:

1. Education for Sustainability

Education throughout our organisation is paramount to achieving a shift of attitudes towards respect and care rather than exploitation. Understanding of the value of ecosystem services is essential if we are to be protected. To this end, Barfoote Construction will:

- Ensure that education for sustainability forms part our employment induction process and competencies;
- Emphasise the understanding of ecosystem function and human impact on sites we work on through direct experience as well as group lecture sessions.

2. Water Quality and Use

Water quality in lakes and rivers has seriously deteriorated. Nutrient run-off from farmland and pollution from urban stormwater has increased and in many places sewage is still not adequately treated. Water must be returned to the environment in a state as good as or better than when it was extracted.

Barfoote Construction supports:

- Encouraging councils to require land use resource consents for conversion to dairying or intensification of land use, and to set limits on nitrogen and phosphate run off.
- Providing for regional councils to set charges for agricultural and industrial water use (except drinking water for stock), and use the revenue to fund their sustainable management function.

3. Waste

Nature has no waste because every substance in it is cycled. We must redesign our economic systems so that all materials are cycled, each 'waste' becoming the feedstock for another process. Barfoote Construction will:

- Prohibit the disposal of certain materials to landfill, starting with materials where recycling infrastructure exists or can be easily developed.

4. Toxic Substances

We live in a cocktail of toxic substances to which our bodies, and other living creatures, are not adapted. Sustainability requires us to reduce this burden wherever possible. Barfoote Construction will:

- Restrict our people with registering toxic substances where a less toxic alternative exists.
- Support industry to move towards "cleaner production" techniques that eliminate or reduce toxic materials.

5. Resource Management Act

The RMA is our key environmental law and has been repeatedly weakened to smooth the path of developers. Barfoote Construction will:

- Uphold the original principles of the RMA — environmental protection and public participation.
- Encourage councils to enforce consent conditions to protect the environment.

BARFOOTE
GROUP