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Unhelpful attack

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At last a New Zealand Government takes a couple of meaningful steps towards water regulation.

Right on cue, the New Zealand Initiative's Dr Eric Crampton rushes into print (Sept 6) attacking the new policy because (i) he has a better idea – cap and trade, and (ii) some dairy farmers who have irresponsibly over-expanded might go broke (and so should be bailed out by the rest of us).

Take first cap and trade. Yes, it might have been a good idea over the past two decades, when Federated Farmers has had ample opportunity to implement it as a self-regulation device, and the NZ Initiative has had ample time to help it design and implement such a scheme.

But no, it's wheeled out only when it can be used as a roadblock to Labour-led Government policy. If you're serious about the environment, beware Right-wing lobbyists touting alternative policies.

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