

## **Cows**

The dairy industry puts food on the table for a lot of New Zealanders.

It also – sometimes – degrades our environment.

That we don't seem to be able to reconcile those things, in the best interests of our national well-being, is a real dilemma.

Shouting that's it's all bad, and has to be stopped, is not a solution. But ignoring the downside is not reasonable, nor sustainable, either.

Whose job is it to sort this out? At the front line: the people we elect to protect our environment. The regional council.

If regional councillors, up and down the length of the country, can't sort this out, it will go down in history as governance failure on a monumental scale.

So what to do? There is a role for district councils, but maybe the real focus should be on our community boards, otherwise running out of things to do. Here's a back yard issue they could get their teeth into – and hold the regional council accountable for.

165 words

Malcolm Macpherson

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