



Scenario Four

Environmental Change: Drought

In the year 2052, New Zealand is experiencing the worst period of drought in the country's history.

The Waikato region has activated rolling water bans and is on high fire alert. Farmers in Northland, Southland and Mid-Canterbury have started to buy supplementary feed (e.g. silage and hay) for their cows as a substitute for dying grass. Taranaki is an exception as a number of freak rainfalls have meant that there is good grass supply. However, now the Taranaki Council is preparing for drought because the last rainfall was some weeks ago.

The local and global demand for dairy products remains high. Farmers are worried because experts expect the drought to last another six to eight months.

1

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- People consider New Zealand dairy products to be very high quality because cows eat mostly grass.
- Exporting our dairy products makes significant income for New Zealand.
- Dairy farmers only have part of their budget for supplementary feed.

The dairy industry is an important part of the New Zealand economy. Scenarios like drought will impact this industry. Can you help ensure that the industry is able to remain sustainable and provide dairy products both locally (in New Zealand) and globally (around the world)?

2

THE CHALLENGE FOR YOUR GROUP:

1. Identify all the problems for the New Zealand's dairy industry that could exist due to this scenario.
2. Explain what potential impacts these problems could have on specific areas of New Zealand's dairy industry.
3. Think of solutions or adaptations for New Zealand's dairy industry to consider to solve the problems or alleviate the impacts.
4. Give detailed explanation about how these solutions or adaptations will solve the problems or alleviate the impacts.

Be as creative and think as widely as possible with your solutions and adaptations. Make sure you can justify and explain your ideas and that they are relevant.

3

PRESENT YOUR LEARNING:

Create a slideshow and oral presentation to present your learning to the class. Start with a brief overview of your future scenario to set the scene for the rest of your presentation.

Make sure you have included all your main ideas. Images are always a good way of helping to explain or support your meaning.