

Ten Lessons from the Land Recovery Programme Consultation



1. Land recovery must work for farms

- Broad support exists, but only if the programme is optional, practical and designed to support farming.

3. Blanket set-aside is not supported

- Pure or compulsory set-aside is widely opposed by the farming community.
- Targeted resting, rotation, and habitat protection are preferred approaches.

5. Payment design will determine participation

- Payments must reflect real costs, income foregone, labour requirements and the social value of ecosystem benefits from management.
- Hybrid models combining area, action, and capital payments are favoured.

2. Farming viability and land recovery must go together

- Wool and meat production are central to farm businesses and the economy.
- Recovery measures must fit within working farm systems, not replace them.

4. Flexibility matters more than targets

- Enrolment targets need to reflect real farm and landscape diversity.
- Priority habitats, land condition, and risk should guide enrolment rules.





6. Different land needs different payment rates

- Tiered payments are needed to reflect land condition and productivity.
- Flat payment rates risk being unfair or ineffective.

8. Monitoring is expected, but must be proportionate

- Public funding requires accountability and evidence of delivery.
- Monitoring systems must be simple, meaningful, and useful to farmers.
- Support for, and assistance with, meaningful monitoring will be needed.

10. Practical enablers matter as much as funding

- Labour, fencing, and infrastructure are major constraints on delivery and need to be supported.

7. Livestock removal should be an option, not a rule

- Managed grazing can coincide with recovery in some situations.
- Stock removal should be habitat or condition-specific and risk-based.

9. Fairness and trust are critical

- Farmers who have already invested in good management should not be disadvantaged.
- Farms should not be penalised for the impacts of historic management.
- Clear rules and transparency are essential for confidence in the scheme.



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