

Collaborating on water for the common good



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Values

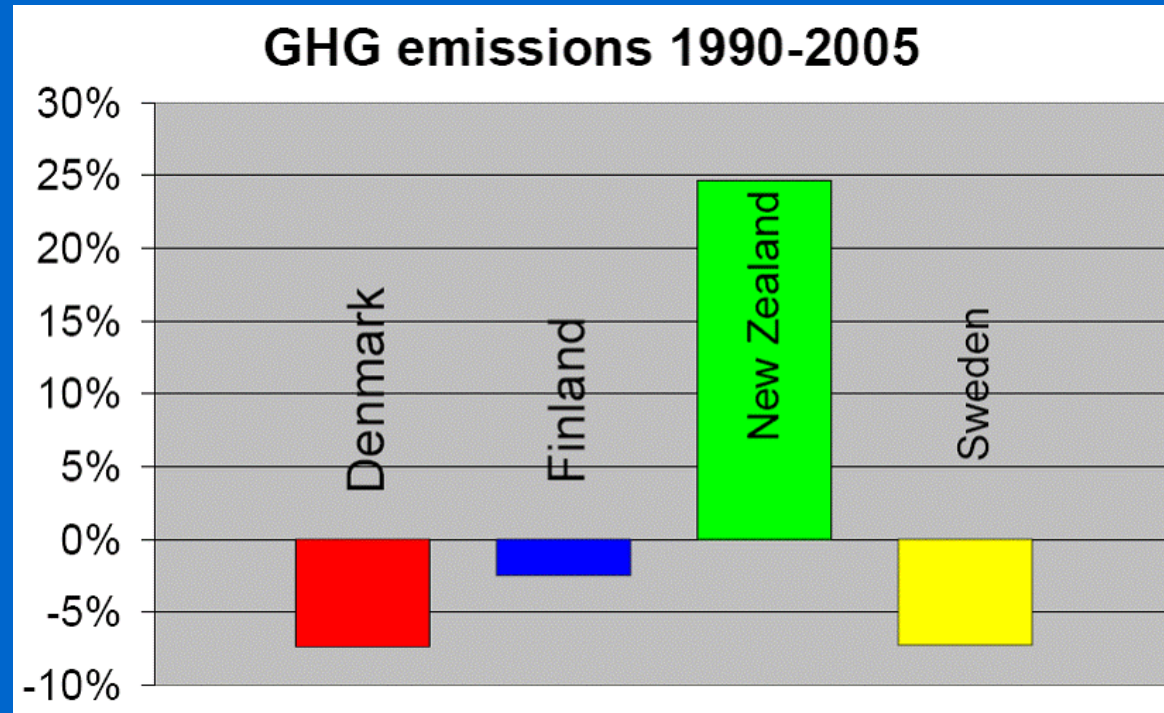


- ❖ The core value of the advancing the common good is at the heart of rural communities
- ❖ It is also at the heart of the environment movement
- ❖ New Zealand needs to lift this spirit to the national level.

Can we learn from the Nordic countries?

- ❖ Finland, Sweden & Denmark
- ❖ Similar to NZ: in size, GDP per capita, political system, economic reforms, open export economies with large primary production sectors, environmental problems
- ❖ Centre-Right governments, strong local govt traditions
- ❖ Effectively reconcile economy & environment.

Something is eluding us...



- ❖ The Nordic countries achieved a consensus about putting a price on their carbon emissions by 1990-2.
- ❖ Sixteen years later, New Zealand is still arguing about whether to be a world leader or a fast follower...

Environmental values

- ❖ International values survey data show NZ & Nordics hold very similar values on environment
- ❖ Much greener than OECD average
- ❖ The difference is in policy performance

Key to Nordic success: collaborative governance

- ❖ In NZ the authorities consult then decide
- ❖ Nordics empower stakeholders to reach a consensus first
- ❖ Political convention: areas of stakeholder consensus will be implemented
- ❖ Lengthy, multi-stakeholder deliberations
- ❖ Deep immersion in information
- ❖ Science resolved in roundtable setting.



Advantages of collaborative governance

- ❖ Speeds up the process of adopting effective policy measures for sustainable development.
- ❖ Creates supportive climate for implementation.
- ❖ Fewer appeals, less investment uncertainty, more competitiveness.
- ❖ Increases influence of science, rational solutions.



Why do participants agree?



- ❖ Consensus means implementation
- ❖ Consensus lends durability
- ❖ Consensus secures continuing access to power
- ❖ Consensus is strongly shaped by perceptions of public acceptability
- ❖ Also: the moderating effect of accountability.

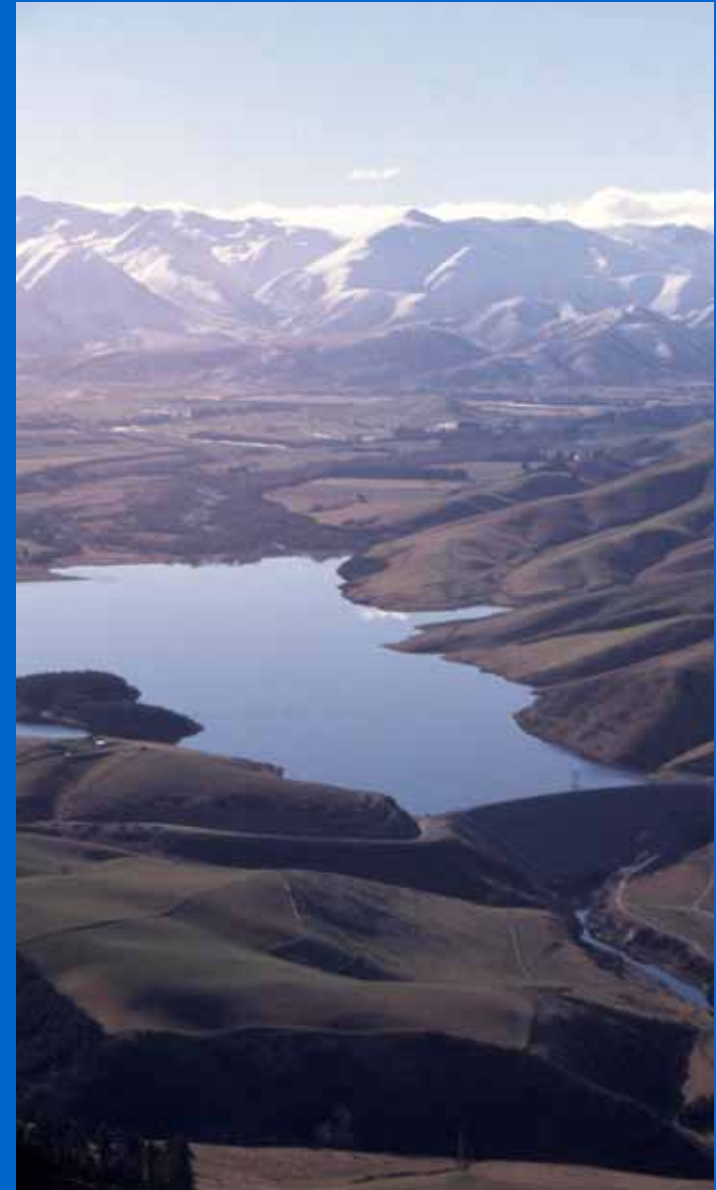
Is collaboration a Nordic cultural quirk?



- ❖ Finland is new to the collaborative style
- ❖ It had a civil war – many later died in prison
- ❖ The bitterness hung over to the 1970s
- ❖ Its neighbour – Soviet Union – meant a consensus on foreign policy became necessary
- ❖ Consensual practice was extended to other areas where long term policies were needed
- ❖ The key was leadership – national and sectoral.

Water transfers & storage

- ❖ Case for transferability made by NZBCSD, Federated Farmers
- ❖ Frees up fully allocated catchments for further regional growth
- ❖ Is in the national interest from an economic point of view
- ❖ Transferability is important for storage because it creates incentives for private sector to invest
- ❖ Enables storage projects without subsidies.



Water transfers & storage: issues to resolve



- ❖ Environmental flows?
- ❖ Water quality standards?
- ❖ Maori ownership/governance?
- ❖ Privatisation fears – wealth transfer – rents?

Thank you

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