

Steve Rice

Subject: FW: Waikato Regional Council Plan Change 1 Hearings schedule

From: Relda <reldamarienz@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, 9 September 2019 2:52 PM

To: Steve Rice <Steve.Rice@waikatoregion.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Waikato Regional Council Plan Change 1 Hearings schedule

Hi Steve. I am sending a copy of the letter I read out at the last submission hearing.

Apologies it has taken me so long to get this to you.

Good afternoon my name is Relda Johnston from Oparau. My husband and I farm a 127 hectare hill country property. The outcome of the desions you are making is so important to our future that I have left the farm at our busiest time of the year to take this opportunity to speak to you. Regarding the nitrogen reference point. My concern is that an overall rule does not recognize individual operations or the nature of the area. I believe council has the resources and the right people to be able to look at the of farming operation and the nature of the terrain and rule on a case by case basis. Total stock exclusion is excessive and impractical. It doesn't take in to account the naturally occurring barriers in steeper hill country and has the capacity to create a large financial burden for farmers. I would like the Waikato Regional Council to implement the National Water Accord which recommends streams 1.5 metre's or wider be fenced off and protected. Hill country farmers take a practical and sustainable approach to their land management our very survival depends on taking care of the natural resources. Farmers are being demonised but we need to look at all contributors to the water contamination problem and start with the biggest offenders first. Hill country farming is marginal at the best of times and this legislation has the potential to destroy us. I would like to see the environmental work Hill country farmers have already done acknowledged and the contribution we make to country's food supply appreciated. In closing I pray the board will keep in mind that our situation is different from other types of farming operations. I would like to thank the members of the submission board for their time.

Sincerely Relda Johnston.
