

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1  
WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

**Submission Form**

Submission on a publically notified proposed Regional Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

**On:** The Waikato Regional Councils proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

**To:** Waikato Regional Council  
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Complete the following

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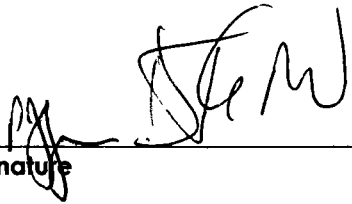
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I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on my ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

I wish to be heard in support of this submission. ✓

  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ date 12/2/2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1. We are sheep and beef farmers in the Hapaukohe Range which is presently excluded from PC1 but this plan will impact us greatly financially personally and emotionally if it is passed in its present form. We have been faithfully farming the property for nearly 28 years with the environment in mind. This plan is now a threat to our home, farming income and our future especially to successive generations. To propose blanket regulations across all types of farming in all regions with varying farming practices, soil types, topography and sustainability is never going to work and maybe a sub catchment approach and different farming sector rulings would be more workable.

ONE

We oppose the PC1 plan in its present form

We understand the vision of the Wai Ora Waipa Waikato to clean up our waterways but think the mechanism proposed by the CSG to achieve it focuses only on environmental considerations and have not considered the negative economic and social impact which this will cause that will be very detrimental to our rural communities. The regulations they want us to farm by are mostly unachievable due both to costs and practicalities, and limits any variation in our farming systems needed for growth, climate change, market forces or successive generations.

We need to be able to continue farming both profitably and sustainably for the continued health and wellbeing not only on our personal farm but also for our immediate community the rural towns that service us and nationally for the economy of New Zealand.

The WRC need to produce a robust and realistic cost benefit analyses of the long term economic and social effects before this plan is to be implemented.

We also need to know the regulations they plan after the initial 10 year time frame so we can plan for our future especially for successive generations.

The ultimate issue is the long term health satisfaction and profitability of our communities not just the health of our water.

**TWO**

We oppose the Nitrogen Reference point in its present form

As sheep and beef farmers our Nitrogen point is already low but we need flexibility of this point with our varying stocking policies according to market forces and climatic conditions. The ruling assessing our NR point over 2014-16 years does not give a true representation as variables such as climate, markets or life situations may have been particularly poor in those years so we need at least a 10 year average. The grand parenting approach being proposed still allows large dischargers of nitrogen to carry on (except the top 25%). Also the overseer model being used as a template is known to be very variable therefore unreliable.

**THREE**

We oppose the ruling of fencing off our waterways in its present form.

Our sheep and beef farm has multiple waterways that run all year round but it will be impractical and in places impossible to fence most of these. To exclude stock from drinking water will enforce us to reticulate our water at enormous cost of approximately \$200,000.00 on top of the fencing costs that will run into the hundreds of thousands which will be unaffordable to us. We have had the WRC sustainable Agricultural advisors out to visit and they agreed with our views and could see the impracticalities. We are happy to mitigate by digging silt traps and planting poplar poles as the WRC advisor advised.

We would like the WRC to give us the scientific proof showing the environmental benefits of fencing off hill country streams.

The WRC needs to have an understanding of hill country farming its practices and complexities to have a realistic ruling around stock exclusion.

**FOUR**

We oppose the contaminant runoff ruling

Our water runs over a rocky bottom and is clear (except after a significant rain event). It is the water we drink and swim in. We have many crustaceans, eels and frogs in our waterways - a sign of a

healthy water body, yet the WRC say we are polluting the waterways and are imposing blanket regulations across all sectors regardless of their sustainable current practices and contributing pollution. For the last 8 years we have fertilized with Dicalcic phosphate which is a more environmentally friendly and to continue to farm profitably we need to fertilize.

One of the biggest problems is the Koi carp in our waterways, which is known to be a huge destructive influence yet there is no robust control implementation as yet. E coli is discharged into our waterways by humans, industry, city storm water runoff, birds, fish, wild animals, rodents and many other sources but the primary industry is the targeted polluter by the WRC. The Primary industries are also the biggest economic contributors to our rural regions and these proposed regulations are going to make these regions far less profitable causing struggling communities which leads to social unrest and its resulting implications.

## FIVE

### Farm Environment Plans

FEPs will make farmers more aware of their obligations to the environment and stop bad practices ie policing the big polluters, however, not with the current proposed regulations but plans to suit individual farms. Every farm is unique and we need to remain profitable to continue farming in conjunction with practical sustainable environmental solutions.

We have already employed two authorized consultants to do individual FEPs for us and our concern is the significantly differing results of the N cap equations which proves to us the WRC need to create fair model templates for the various types of farming.

## SIX

### We oppose the land use change

To supply food for our increasing urban population and to sustain our economy with primary export growth farmers need flexibility in land use.

This will also affect land valuations and a division in wealth in the differing farming sectors even though it may be adjacent land with similar potential.