

**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  
401 Grey Street  
Hamilton East  
Private bag 3038  
Waikato Mail Centre  
HAMILTON 3240

*Complete the following*

**Full Name(s): Susan Helen Rowe**

**Phone (hm): 07 8254 708**

**Phone (wk): 07 8254 708**

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**Phone (cell):**

**Postcode: 3793**

**Email: [suerowe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:suerowe@xtra.co.nz)**

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.**

**If others make similar submissions, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.**



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

### **Introduction: Susan Helen Rowe**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1.

My name is Susan Rowe. Gowan Richard Rowe Family Trust and I jointly own 372.655 hectares 5579 Highway 22, Waipa District.

The farm has been leased by our son Benjamin Rowe and his partner Karyna Young, trading as Lacewood Holdings Limited since Gowan's death in 2010.

The farm has been owned by our family since 1977. It has always been a sheep and beef farm and currently stock 4000 stock units.

Approximately 12 hectares is planted in 22 year old pinus radiata. Native Bush covers approximately 14 hectares and kanuka/manuka approximately 20 hectares. Areas that are prone to slipping have had poplar and willow poles planted over the last five years. Most of the swamps and those areas that stock can get caught in have a 2 wire fence.

### **Introduction: Lacewood Holdings Ltd**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1.

My name is Benjamin Rowe. Karyna Young and I jointly own 20.4000 hectares 5598 Highway 22, Waipa District.

The farm has been owned by us since April 2014. It is essentially a life style block but is run in conjunction with my parent's farm which I lease.

Approximately hectares are flat to rolling and the remainder is steep hill country. The Te Kaiwa Stream runs through the property. This stream floods regularly. It is inaccessible to stock due to surrounding trees and terrain.

The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks from Council are as detailed in the following table. The outcomes sought and the wording used is as a suggestion only, where a suggestion is proposed it is with the intention of 'or words to that effect'. The outcomes sought may require consequential changes to the plan, including Objectives, Policies, or other rules, or restructuring of the Plan, or parts thereof, to give effect to the relief sought.

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
Objective 1 & Table 3.11-1	Oppose	<p>I support the principle of this act in the long term restoration and protection of our water ways, but do not believe this particular proposal its achievable long term so oppose it.</p> <p>Allow for external influences beyond our control, eg. Heavy rainfall, flooding which occurs most years.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is amended as set out below:</p> <p>Make sure the quality of the water is achievable. It is not simply one rule for all.</p>
<p><b>The Plan as a Whole</b></p> <p>Uncertainty to farm in the future</p>	Oppose	<p>Withdraw the plan and replace with one that is achievable. It is not practical for hill country sheep and beef farming. Low intensity land users and low risk land users with a certain number of stock units per hectare and forestry should be excluded from or allowed for in the plan.</p>	<p>Specific to hill country sheep and beef farmers: Delete the Plan and replace with a plan which establishes a way for farmers to practically manage environmental concerns, while maintaining a sustainable business.</p>

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
		<p>Restricting the land use will seriously affect the value of our land and withdraw the incentive to grow such a business.</p> <p>The capital cost to implement such a plan will be financially crippling to older farmers and especially those who are currently leasing out their farms.</p>	<p>A blanket prohibition should not be applied. This needs more research. If this plan is approved, It will severely affect the health and mental well being of the farmers with low density stock rates.</p> <p>Farmer's health is as important as healthy water ways. At the end of their honest working life it should not be that they need to remortgage their farms to fence off water ways, which are perfectly healthy as they are.</p> <p>It will be a total waste of time and recourses. Huge cost to employ specialists to implement programme, huge cost to the farmers, and once implemented it will all just die a natural as these things tend to do.</p>
<p><b>Nitrogen Reference Point</b></p> <p><i>Objectives 1 and 4 Policies 2 and 7 Rules 3.11.5.2 to 3.11.5.7 Schedule B, and any</i></p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>This law will penalise the low emitters and seriously impede on future development of their land.</p> <p>The use of an overseer to determine the NRP is an inconsistent and inaccurate method.</p> <p>Once again external influences should be</p>	<p>Delete requirements to be held at or below a properties nitrogen reference point. Especially for low discharging operations.</p> <p>Adopt an alternative method to measure the nitrogen such as one</p>

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
other related provisions		allowed for such as drought years, rainfall, lack of sunshine etc.	based on the natural capacity of soils.
<p><b>Stock Exclusion</b></p> <p>Policy 2 Rules 3.11.5.2 to 3.11.5.7 and Schedule C, and any other related provisions</p>	Oppose	<p>There are many areas on our farm that would need to be fenced. Fencing is expensive and to fence these water ways would be totally impractical and financially crippling. Some of the areas are unattainable and it would mean retiring many hectares of land that would just revert to scrub, willows, poplars, gorse and weeds.</p> <p>Streams and minor water ways should not apply.</p>	This needs to be tailored on a farm by farm basis and a way to prove that hill country farmers with low stocking rates are effecting out water ways.

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		To have everything fenced off would seriously impede on the practicality of farming our land.	
<b>Farm Environment Plans</b> Policy 2, Rule 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4, Schedule 1	Oppose	I support the intention of implementing an FEP to identify contamination areas on the farm however I don't think there should be one plan for all.  Farming is too diversified for this.	Should be done on a farm by farm case/catchment area and not blanket rules. There needs to be flexibility.

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<b>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</b>	<b>My submission is that:</b>		<b>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</b>



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Yours sincerely

Susan Rowe

 7.3.17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

Yours sincerely

Benjamin Rowe

 7-3-17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date