

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to our submissions. We are covering 2 farms. The original home farm in the Waipa catchment has been farmed by the family since 1921, when Captain Hugh MacLachlan [from Oban, Scotland] and his Irish wife, emigrated following encouragement from Arthur, an Irish ANZAC who thought New Zealand was the loveliest country in the world, and the furthest they could get away from the horror of war. The grandson and great grandson of Arthur have already made oral submissions to you all. Despite considerable permanent war injuries Hugh developed the farm, and despite near foreclosure in the Depression he established a dry stock property which formed the basis of further farm purchases by his son and grandsons from the 1950s to the 1990s. The farm is on papa, mudstone so some areas move, and heavy stocking is completely inappropriate. It is also not suitable for forestry. There is no cropping, nor supplement production or feeding. The farm is dissected by State Highway 3 so management of stock and associated activities is limited. Some land adjacent to SH3 has been retired due subtle movement of ground beside the highway. The attached photo, taken in January is what feeds the Waipa, it doesn't flow in the summer/autumn months.

The second farm where we live was purchased from 1974, with additional blocks added up to 1993. It is a completely different soil type, contour, and aspect. It is in the Western Catchment, and obviously decisions made now with regard to Plan Change 1 regulations will impact this property in a few more years. Our stocking policies involve low stocking rates, no cropping and supplement is only made and fed on the flats of the valley.

We belong to both King Country River Care group and we are also involved with the Mapara subcatchment group. We have had a mitigation workshop on our sons part of the farm, and are working towards fencing off the last of the native bush, and developing more water filter swails. There is nearly 4 km of the Mangapehi stream fenced [both sides], there are abundant eels in the stream and drains, and crayfish in the water source pipes. We feel we are good custodians of our farmland.

What we want to emphasise is that sub catchment monitoring and management is the most practical and effective way of managing the water.

We want to emphasise that the personnel auditing any properties MUST be fully cognisant of local conditions and farming practices.

We want to emphasise that blanket rules about fencing of drains is neither practical nor efficient. Blackberry inside fenced areas adds to the erosion problems when heavy rain erodes the banks.

We want to emphasise the need for simple science [ie not complicated] to support farmers with the analysis of data that is produced from testing of our waterways. In the western catchment there are very few testing spots...how can policy be developed if the true picture is not accurate?

In conclusion please don't have one set of rules to throw over every farm You will have observed there are so many variations in farms, farming methods and local geography, keep the management at a co-operative subcatchment level with sound practical and scientific support.

Thank You

[1 photo attached].

