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2nd March 2017

C E O Waikato Regional Council

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Re. Submission on Healthy Rivers / Waiora Plan Change 1

Waikato & Waipa River Catchments

Property ID 13276 Waipa District Council

140 Brill Road Kihikihi

Dear Sir / Madam

On our 25 acres at 140 Brill Road Kihikihi beside the Puniu River we run heifers. All the fencing we have put up on our river flats has been taken out and destroyed by floods because of all manner of debris (plastic of every description, tyres and other vehicle and machinery parts, rubbish, washing machines, fridges and other household white wear, tree branches, indeed whole trees, etc) in the surging and raging river and because of the volume of water passing. Obviously with land clearance over all the years upstream from us there is a far greater run off of water during the wet weather than if all the land was forested. This is well understood environmental science and physics.

Another obvious reason for the flooding of our river flats are all the blockages downstream slowing the river flow because of all the overgrown and overhanging and broken off limbs from willow trees, poplars and other exotic trees clogging the tributaries. In the days of the government sponsored PEP work schemes, workers removed all these tree obstacles, cleared the river of all the debris, stacked everything up and had a burn off.

We note the Waikato Regional Council in conjunction with local Iwi, desire healthy rivers when referring to the Waikato and Waipa rivers and their tributaries. Instead of the Regional Councils obsession with the 'run off' from agriculture despite the already fenced off waterways and monitored leaching of nitrogen, please also consider the feral goat population, the wild pigs rooting the ground and deer all disturbing and fouling the ground on the DOC land and in the exotic forests where the tributaries to the Waipa and Waikato rivers originate. What about the huge orange carp that live in these waterways (Puniu River included) and destroy the river bed, river banks, the native flora and fauna by these

introduced fresh water fish continually stirring up, predated and working their habitat. We regularly see these huge orange carp in our wetland area and in the retained water in our paddocks after a flood. Disgusting alien creatures in our waterways. Scientifically what are these introduced animals and fish doing to the health of the rivers, the native fish species, the native kakahi or fresh water mussel, tuna and whitebait and the natural environment?

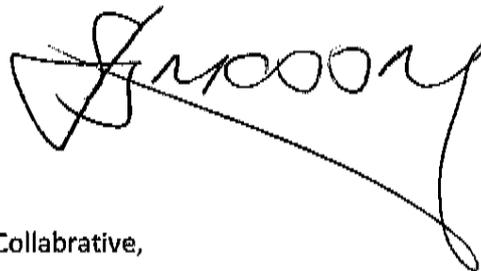
In association with issues of polluted waterways and outside the realms of the constantly scorned agricultural industry, what about introduced ducks, geese, swans and other water fowl? These introduced game birds are constantly fouling the waterways. What about Fish and Game New Zealand who protect and release these game birds? What about the avian salmonella associated with these water fowl?

As you can see from our submission, please understand there is a far bigger picture than the Waikato Regional Council forever targeting the New Zealand Agricultural Industry. Don't get us started on the pollution of the environment and waterways from suburbia like Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, Ngaruawahia, Hamilton, Cambridge, Otorohanga, Te Kowhai, Port Waikato, Tirau, Putaruru, Tokoroa and many other similar towns.

Please be guided in your quest for healthy rivers by proper science and open your minds to the much bigger picture that exists, as outlined above in our submission and to the many other submitters who all share a genuine, passionate love of our country and it's waterways, our turangawaewae also, and to all the submitters who have already done much to fence off their waterways, covenant their natural environment with the Q E 11 National Trust and monitor leaching from our farming, cropping and rural operations.

Jane and John Mason

Jane Mason



Copies of this submission to: James Bailey,

Healthy Rivers Collaborative,

848 State Highway 1,

R D 1,

Pairere 3484

Brendan Balle

Primary Land Users Group

166 Heights Road

R D 1

Pukekohe 2676

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Jane & John Mason – part two

- We do not wish to speak at the hearing

- If others make a similar submission we will not consider presenting a joint case

- We could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission