

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

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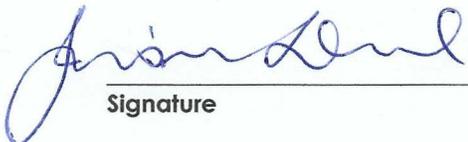
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I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on my ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

I do not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

 2.3.17.
Signature date

Introduction

My husband Ross and I are at present in the process of purchasing our neighbours property which will give us just under 20ha – the property will be made up of 4.7850ha which we have farmed for 13 years and 15.6600ha which our neighbours have farmed for approximately 20 years. Our farm is on the north side of Te Kuiti and in the Priority 1 catchment (Mangapu sub catchment).

We have farmed sheep on our property and the neighbours sheep and beef. Once amalgamation of titles is complete we intend to continue to run sheep and beef, improving production and grazing patterns. The former owners through lifestyle choice and health constraints were not intensively farming.

Now we have more scope and the ability to farm more intensively we intend to improve production and vary the type of sheep and beef we farm. Re-fencing, contouring and repairing ground are in future plans.

Our original 4ha, has no streams that run all year round. The additional hectares have a running stream and wet area that are already fenced and planted out. We intend to re-fence the area to make it completely stock proof. A gully with native bush and a stream that doesn't run all year will be fenced to exclude cattle.

The proposed plan, especially 3.11.5.2, allows no flexibility and is extremely limiting and doesn't take into account the variables that are farming in New Zealand – markets and weather. It stifles the very thing that New Zealand was built on – innovation and adaptability.

For that reason I seek that the plan in its current form be declined.

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.

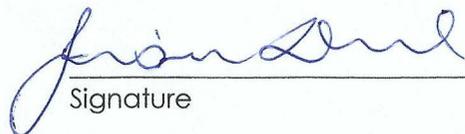
The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	"Our vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come."		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
Provision 3.11.1 The vision and strategy	I support this		

The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that: rule 3.11.5.2 is unfair and doesn't allow flexibility.		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
<p>Provision: 3.11.5.2 Permitted Activity Rule – other farming activities</p>	<p>I oppose the rule.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a property is recently purchased, provision 3.11.5.2 does not take into account the situation of the previous owners who may have farmed conservatively because of health reasons or as a lifestyle choice. • There is no flexibility as to how you can farm going forward – regardless of markets/ seasonal changes etc • It is simply too limiting to make improvements and therefore to maintain financial viability. • Science can change so much in 10 years - even 5 years and yet farmers are being locked into a 10 year plan that asks them to invest significant amounts of time and money. • 	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That each area is broken down into sub catchments and a plan put together by the farmers, council together that works toward rectifying the problems that are particular in that area. An area where the predominant problem is sediment – shouldn't be marginalised by a low NRP when that is not the problem. • Thought needs to be given to the impact the population increase is having on our waterways. Once only needs to look at the increase in housing at the bottom of the Bombay Hill and wonder the effect that has on the Waikato River. • Perhaps industry within urban areas have their production capped – having a cap on the

			<p>amount of water used – once that cap is met – production stops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eating establishments – bars, and hotels have a weekly water usage cap – once reached the business would have to close for the rest of the week.• Similarly a cap on the amount of sewage discharged per business – once weekly cap is met then the business must close. <p>You can only imagine the uproar these restrictions would cause - but it is exactly what is being asked of the farming community.</p>
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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that: the objective to maintain social, economic and cultural wellbeing will not be achieved if Plan 1 goes ahead		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
<p><i>Provision</i></p> <p><i>Objective 2 – social, economic and cultural wellbeing is maintained in the long term</i></p> <p><i>Objective 4 – people and community resilience</i></p>	<p>I support the objective but struggle to understand how it can be achieved</p>	<p>I am using my community of Te Kuiti to base my concerns on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the requirements of Plan change 1, the financial commitment will be crippling to our farming community . A town like Te Kuiti relies heavily on community support and a lot of that support comes from our farming community. • Our fire brigade and ambulance service rely on community support. Volunteers work in local businesses who are supported by our farming community – when they stop spending, businesses have to adjust to survive. Employing staff who when there is an emergency have to drop tools and can be gone for hours at a time comes at a cost that would soon become unaffordable. • Our schools (mostly below decile 5) rely heavily on fundraising to supplement their already stretched budgets. Local businesses are asked constantly to support fundraising efforts. With reduced income as a result of reduced spending by farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like the regional council to recognise the impact that Plan Change 1 will have on rural communities who struggle at the best of times to maintain the services, clubs and social amenities that are vital to their survival and wellbeing. • Make changes that are practical achievable and not so financially crippling

		<p>- making donations to support the schools and wider community will decrease considerably.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many other local sporting groups, marae and community groups need the same support, and would struggle to survive without it• To mitigate the constraints of Plan change 1 - many farmers will change from beef to sheep farming. The impact on the local freezing works will affect unemployment levels within our community. Similarly other business in town, directly related to farming would have the same issues and layoffs would be inevitable.	
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Signature

2.3.17

Date