

Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

Submission form on publicly notified – Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

SubForm	PC12016	COVER SHEET	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
		Submission Number	
Entered		Initials	
File Ref		Sheet 1 of	

FORM 5 Clause 6 of First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE	
Mailed to	Chief Executive, 401 Grey Street, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240
Delivered to	Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton
Faxed to	(07) 859 0998 <i>Please Note: if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy to one of the above addresses</i>
Emailed to	healthyrivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz <i>Please Note: Submissions received my email must contain full contact details. We also request you send us a signed original by post or courier.</i>
Online at	www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers
We need to receive your submission by 5pm, 8 March 2017.	

YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS		
Full name Jean Wilkins		
Full address 61 Ohinewai North Road, R D 1, Huntly, 3771		
Email oliverjeanwilkins@hotmail.com	Phone 07 828 7394	Fax

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE OF SUBMITTER		
Full name		
Address for service of person making submission		
Email	Phone	Fax

TRADE COMPETITION AND ADVERSE EFFECTS <i>(select appropriate)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am / <input type="checkbox"/> am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that: (a) adversely effects the environment, and (b) .
Delete entire paragraph if you could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 1 THAT MY SUBMISSION RELATES TO

Please state the provision, map or page number e.g. Objective 4 or Rule 3.11.5.1

(continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)

Rule 3.11.5.2 - 4c) Oppose the above provisions

Rule 3.11.5.4 5a) Oppose the above provisions

5c) Support with amendments

5d) Support with amendments

I SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE ABOVE PROVISION/S

(select as appropriate and continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)

Support the above provisions

X Support the above provision with amendments Support the above provision with amendments

X Oppose the above provisions Oppose the above provisions

MY SUBMISSION IS THAT

Tell us the reasons why you support or oppose or wish to have the specific provisions amended.

(Please continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)

My husband Oliver and I are currently sharemilking on his family's 70 hectare dairy farm at Ohinewai. The Wilkins family have farmed this land for the past 66 years. We are the third generation of Wilkins family to farm this land and have been here for 26 years.

I would like to express my concerns regarding the Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipa River Catchments.

Rule 3.11.5.2

4c) No part of the property or enterprise over 15 degrees slope is cultivated or grazed:

I am concerned with this rule for the following reasons:

- The land that was once cultivated or grazed will grow weeds and gorse instead. The gorse and weeds will make the land look messy and the gorse will spread and become a real problem.
- This has already become a problem on high country farms in Southland, particularly on land taken back by DOC.
- This is not an improvement of the land.
- This will mean a significant drop in the price of land, as it will be unusable.
- It will send high country beef and sheep farmers bankrupt.
- This will in turn effect small farming communities and towns eg no money spent.

Rule 3.11.5.4

5a) A Farm Environment Plan

Fonterra farmers are required to provide information on fertiliser use, feed brought in and other information to ensure we are managing our business safely and efficiently. It does not make sense to have to complete or pay someone to complete an additional Farm Environment Plan, providing similar or the same information to the WRC. Also, to employ someone to undertake a Farm Environment Plan will add another cost, causing our already marginally economic unit to be totally uneconomic. Not to mention the cost upon our already limited free time. With new rules, regulations and requirements I am spending more and more time indoors completing paperwork instead of outside helping complete the farm work.

May I suggest working together with Fonterra, so that the information provided is also available to the WRC. The Beef and Sheep sector also have stringent guidelines in place (eg Silverfern Farms), which guarantees our food products to prospective overseas buyers. Most farmers provide our country and the world (through export) a healthy, high quality product, whilst also striving to be good stewards of the land. It is only a few that let it down for the rest of us.

5c) A Nitrogen Reference Point is produced for the property:

I agree there needs to be a change in the way some farmers use Nitrogen (Urea). In my opinion there needs to be more stringent rules for large, high intensity farms who are currently putting on way too much Urea. So if a farm has a high Nitrogen Reference Point for the 14/15 and 15/16 years, are they permitted to put this high amount of Nitrogen on again the following years? This current rule restricts flexibility in smaller farming operations, especially low emitters. There needs to be more clarity around the Nitrogen Reference Point.

I don't agree with the current "Nitrogen Reference Point" being taken over 2 years (14/15 and 15/16 years). It would be more realistic to set this over 5 years instead. The weather and cashflow can restrict whether fertiliser is applied or not each year, so a broader date range would be more accurate. Alternatively, the Nitrogen or other high emitting elements could be monitored from the purchase point. With a certain amount allocated per farm per hectare. It should not be gauged by what is leached out of the soil, as some soils would leach faster than others eg sandy soils. Fertiliser companies need to be responsible for our environment also. In the past, farmers have been encouraged to put more fertiliser on, to produce more grass, to get more production. These big companies need to be accountable also.

We are not high users of Urea. My father in law prefers a natural approach, and has put mostly seaweed and other natural fertilisers on in place of urea. We have used Abron for the last 5 years, who concentrate on getting the soil and pasture in the best possible health. We do appreciate the positives of urea and put only a small amount on the farm. For farmers to use it in large quantities to grow grass in my opinion is wrong.

5d) Cattle, horses, deer and pigs are excluded from water bodies in conformance with Schedule C

I agree with the above rule to exclude the above animals from entering water bodies that continually contain water (This should also include the sea). As Fonterra farmers, we have already ensured that all waterways containing water for 365 days of the year are fenced off. However, where it is impractical or impossible to fence, eg steep hill country land, this needs to be investigated further. Some may say the answer here is to graze sheep, but sheep only eat short grass, they don't like long rank grass or weeds and so will not "clean up" this land the same as cattle would. Due to the price difference in selling cattle compared to sheep/wool, these farmers would take a huge drop in income if they were to graze sheep instead. This will have an effect on our local

communities. As the income will be greatly reduced, so the spending will also.

The land prices will plummet as this land will only be able to run sheep and this will have a snowball effect on the country.

Wilkins The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River

*"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". (Bold mine)*

I agree with the vision for a healthy Waikato River and all the Rivers in NZ, but we as a country **need to work together** to do this.

In your Waikato Regional Council Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 - Waikato and Waipa River Catchments Book page 26 you discuss the Use Values - Electricity Generation. Listed is the Waikato hydro scheme which extends over 186km. The Waikato River generates electricity, which we all need, but the flow of water is slowed down by these hydro dams and this effects the water quality.

Listed below are some of the impacts hydro dams have on water quality and kai as listed on NIWA's website:

- Decreased water clarity - erosion and increased sediment loading into the river due to changes in flow will decrease water clarity and reduce visibility and the ability of fish to find food.
- Altered fish migration - barriers may prevent native fish that move from sea to freshwater as part of their life cycle, such as tuna, from moving upstream and downstream and accessing otherwise suitable habitat.
- Increased velocity - sustained high water velocity prevents some fish access to upstream habitats.
- Modified flow - flow changes as stream banks are modified and realigned, which can lead to changes in the benthic (bottom) structure of the stream/river bed, coarse substrates such as gravels and boulders are replaced and covered by sand and silt.
- Damage to banks and floodplains - varying flows and flash floods threaten the stability of a river bank, increasing its vulnerability at times of flooding and damaging breeding and feeding habitat for mahinga kai.

Koi Carp Contribute To Poor Water Quality

As the Department of Conservation point out, Koi Carp contribute to poor water quality. The way koi carp feed stirs up the bottom of ponds, lakes and rivers muddying the water and destroying native plant and fish habitat. Koi carp are an opportunistic feeder, eating insects, spawn, juvenile fish of other species and a diverse range of plants and organic matter. They feed like a vacuum cleaner, sucking up everything and blowing out what isn't wanted. Aquatic plants are dislodged in the process and unable to re-establish.

Koi carp cause habitat loss for plants, native fish and waterfowl. Koi carp females can spawn a million eggs at a time. Koi carp prefer still waters in lakes, or backwaters in rivers. They are very tolerant of poor water quality and contribute to water quality decline. Koi carp are widespread in the Waikato.

Control or eradication of these pests should be a high priority for the Waikato Regional Council for the future Health of our River and its native plants and wildlife species.

Water Foul

There are a lot of water foul eg swans, geese, ducks and other birdlife in the Waikato River and neighbouring lakes. These birds through their droppings put ecoli in our water ways. This is something the WRC need to look at addressing short term also.

Swimming in the Waikato River

I would like to pose the question, who is going to swim in the Waikato River 365 days of the year? Most people do not swim in the Waikato River because it is dangerous. The current is too strong and there is a lot of weed that you can get entangled in. You could also hit your head on floating debris. I have seen young people jump off the train bridges in Ngaruawahia and Huntly in summertime to cool down. That is the only time I see people swim in the Waikato River.

Up until 2016, agriculture was the biggest contributor of the national economy. I believe these changes your are posing will put a financial burden on farmers and the ripple effect will be felt throughout NZ starting with small rural communities. It has been said that farmers "are the backbone of this country" and we believe this is still the case today. There is already an uncertainty of what land prices are going to do. Some of our local hill country farmers and friends will have to spend millions to get waterways fenced and put in pipes to service troughs.

The Waikato River is the 4th cleanest river in the world. Water quality should be everyone's responsibility? There are other pollutants that need to be addressed also. The blame, responsibility and financial burden to make changes should not be placed on farmers alone. Please strongly consider the effect that some of the Healthy Rivers rules will have on farmers livelihoods and the country's economy.

Yours sincerely

Jean Wilkins

I SEEK THE FOLLOWING DECISION BY COUNCIL

(select as appropriate and continue on separate sheet(s) if necessary.)

- Accept the above provision
 Accept the above provision with amendments as outlined below
 Decline the above provision
 If not declined, then amend the above provision as outlined below

Amend as follows: As included in above letter.

PLEASE INDICATE BY TICKING THE RELEVANT BOX WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION

I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

JOINT SUBMISSIONS

If others make a similar submission, please tick this box if you will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

IF YOU HAVE USED EXTRA SHEETS FOR THIS SUBMISSION PLEASE ATTACH THEM TO THIS FORM AND INDICATE BELOW

Yes, I have attached extra sheets.

No, I have not attached extra sheets.

SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER

(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.

Signature Jean Wilkins

Date 8/03/2017

Personal information is used for the administration of the submission process and will be made public. All information collected will be held by Waikato Regional Council, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

PLEASE CHECK that you have provided all of the information requested and if you are having trouble filling out this form, phone Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 for help.

Additional sheet to assist in making a submission

Section number of the Plan Change	Support /Oppose	Submission	Decision sought
Please refer to title and page numbers used in the plan change document	Indicate whether you support or oppose the provision.	State in summary the nature of your submission and the reasons for it.	State clearly the decision and/or suggested changes you want Council to make on the provision.