

## Submission: Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Plan Change 1 (PC1)

Submission on a publicly notified proposed Regional Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Submitting On:** The Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Plan Change 1 (PC1)

**Submitting To:** Waikato Regional Council  
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### Submission

1. I have reviewed Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Plan Change 1 (PC1) and **oppose** the Plan Change in its current form.
2. I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

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.



3. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Plan Change 1 (PC1).

My name is Jeff Bodley. With my wife, Sue, we farm two properties in the Rangiriri and Te Kauwhata areas.

The Rangiriri farm is 288 hectares, which was purchased by my parents in 1953, and it has been in the family ever since (64 years). Sue and I purchased the farm outright, from my parents, in 1973 and have steadily developed the land over these years.

We now fatten Angus cattle for the Countdown supermarkets. We have a regular supply leaving the property every week of the year. The property carries an inventory of 800 to 1,000 Angus steers.

From the day Sue and I purchased the property, we have fenced, added races, and watered the property as a dairy farm would. This was with the deliberate intention of preparing the land for a dairy conversion in the future as part of our personal succession planning. The farm has been farmed like a dairy farm over the years. Break feeding, rotational grazing, feed budgeting, and supplement feeding. These are all similar good management practices as a dairy farm, but we used these techniques to fatten cattle.

We have grown and fed maize silage to our cattle since the late 1970's, this was before it became popular with dairy farmers.

Where possible, we have built ponds, fenced off wetlands and drains, and planted thousands of native and exotic trees and plants on our land. We employed consultants, namely the renowned couple John and Bunny Mortimer, to advise us on our development ideas and plantings etc. Remembering, this is on a piece of land that is 90% flat. In the year of 1996, we were awarded the Farm Environmental Award for the Best Habitat Enhancement.

The 79-hectare property we now live on, in Te Kauwhata, is on the shores of Lake Waikare, adjacent to the Te Kauwhata town boundary. This property now holds three fully fenced ponds. All the runoff from the property is filtered through wetlands and plantings before it reaches the Lake, which has also been fenced off to exclude stock. This was started some 28 years ago, not through any compulsion, but simply because we love our land, our trees, our ponds, the birds; the environment. The pleasures the environment provides for me, my family, my friends and our visitors, as well as the aesthetics, means Sue and I take great pride in protecting our environment.

The ponds and their environments are used regularly by local groups, such as the Scouts and Girl Guides, for their various outdoor and overnight activities. It has also hosted the local emergency services for their Christmas function.

In 2002, this property also received a Farm Environment Award. This was a special achievement award for the Establishment of Superb Habitat and Shelter.

4. The table below are the details for the specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks from Council. 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.

No.	Section number of the Proposed Plan Change 1	Support/ Oppose	Submission	Decision sought
4.1	Overall	Support with amendments	<p>Overall, I oppose the manner in which the Waikato Regional Council are approaching the restoration and protection on the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers, and their catchments. The reasons for my views is the impact Koi Carp and the dams have on our rivers.</p> <p>I support restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers.</p>	<p>Amend PC1 to be holistic and include all sources influencing the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchments, for example Koi Carp, Canadian Geese, and hydro-dams.</p> <p>Koi Carp are removed from the Waikato Rivers and its catchments.</p>
<b>3.11.2 Objectives</b>				
4.2	Objective 1 Long-term restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit	Support with amendments	<p>Support the intention of Objective 1.</p> <p>Oppose the attribute targets set in Table 3.11-1. The attribute targets are too prescriptive and should align with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and Waikato River Authority's (WRA) Vision and Strategy.</p> <p>Objective 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not consider all contaminant sources holistically</li> </ul>	<p>Retain the long-term restoration and protection of water quality for the Waikato and Waipa rivers.</p> <p>Amend PC1 to be holistic and include all sources influencing the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchments, for example Koi Carp, Canadian Geese, and hydro-dams.</p> <p>Koi Carp are removed from the Waikato Rivers and its catchments.</p>
4.3	Objective 3 Short-term improvements in water quality in the	Support with amendments	Support reducing the diffuse discharges in the short-term by 10%, of the overall long-term 80-year water quality targets.	Retain a 10% achievement of the long-term water quality targets set out in PC1 by 2026.

	first stage of restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit		However, Objective 1,3 and Policy 1 do not consider all contaminant sources holistically. Therefore, how can the short-term water quality attribute targets be met if not all sources are considered.	Amend PC1 to be holistic and include all sources influencing the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchments, for example Koi Carp, Canadian Geese, and hydro-dams.  Koi Carp are removed from the Waikato Rivers and its catchments.
<b>3.11.3 Policy</b>				
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Policy 1</b> Manage diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens	Support with amendments	Support managing diffuse discharges to improve or maintain the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers.  However, Objective 1,3 and Policy 1 do not consider all diffuse discharges sources holistically.	Retain managing diffuse discharges.  Amend PC1 to be holistic and include all sources influencing the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River and its catchments, for example Koi Carp, Canadian Geese, and hydro-dams.  Koi Carp are removed the Waikato Rivers and its catchments.
<b>3.11.4 Implementation Methods</b>				
<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.11.4.4</b> Lakes and Whangamarino Wetland	Support with amendments	Support WRC working with others to gain knowledge and information around lakes and the Whangamarino wetland.  Support 3.11.4.4 (d) "work towards managing the presence of pest weeds and fish in the shallow lakes and connected lowland rivers area, including Whangamarino Wetland".  However, there are no policies, objectives or rules in PC1 that recognise point (d). It should also be extended to the Waikato and Waipa rivers and their catchments, not just shallow lakes and connected lowland rivers area.	Retain working with others in relation to lakes and the Whangamarino Wetland.  Retain managing pest weeds and fish.  Amend PC1 to include the management of pest weeds and fish in the policies, objectives and rules in the Waikato and Waipa Catchments.
<b>3.11.5 Rules</b>				

4.6	3.11.5.7 Non-Complying Activity Rule – Land Use Change	Oppose	<p>Oppose non-complying activity status because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unaffordable to land owners wanting to increase their land area, rather than intensify</li> <li>• Eventually end up costing the consumer due to limited food availability</li> <li>• Limits flexibility, therefore growth and innovation, and reduces land value</li> <li>• Jeopardises my business, family and community success and growth</li> <li>• Transfers wealth based on high emissions and/or high NRP i.e. a dairy farm with a high NRP will have a higher land value compared to a dairy farm with a low NRP</li> <li>• Removes, to a degree, property rights</li> <li>• Adds stress to my life, my family's life, and my community's life</li> <li>• Overall will largely affect the local, regional and national economy.</li> </ul> <p>Overall this rule undermines Objective 2, 4, 5 and Policy 1, 2, 5 and 9.</p>	<p>Address contaminants on a sub-catchment basis, to enable targeting of the highest omitting sub-catchments.</p> <p>Reduce activity status to Restricted Discretionary for high priority sub-catchments, in relation to water quality, and limit discretion to the management of the diffuse discharges of the four contaminants.</p> <p>Reduce activity status to Permitted for low priority sub-catchments, in relation to water quality.</p> <p>Enable appropriate mitigation strategies to be adopted in the context of water quality gains to be made, through a tailored FEP.</p>
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