

**WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1  
WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS**

**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

**To:** Waikato Regional Council  
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Complete the following

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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 wish to be heard in support of this submission.**

*M. J. Chubb*

*b. chubb*  
**Signature**

**27.2.2017**

**date**

We have of recent years purchased our 342 ha farm which was very run down. We are developing our farm (as finances permit) and still developing the potential of our business.

We have undertaken an extensive project of installing a reticulated water system over the 342 ha which has been completed and we have on going fencing projects with some areas of waterways being fenced off now.

Our farming operation is that of an organic fertilising program (we are not certified) and we do not undertake any cropping and maintain minimal use of spray chemicals.

We had made the early stage plans of Farm Succession which have now been suspended. Our son is unwilling to take a share in our business due to the huge uncertainty with this Plan Change 1. He sees Plan Change 1 creates an unstable farming environment, also non sustainable farming and his rights to farm have been seriously eroded.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

Withdrawal of the Lower part of the Waikato Catchment (Hauraki Iwi)

Our submission is that we **oppose** the withdrawal of the Lower Waikato Catchment.

Plan Change 1 has been proposed as defined in all the documentation presented by Waikato Regional Council. To withdraw one sector makes the Plan Change 1 proposal invalid.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must dissolve Plan Change 1 in its entirety until the whole catchment can be treated as one as originally proposed.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***OBJECTIVE 3.11.1 : Values and uses for the Waikato and Waipa rivers***

Our submission is that we **oppose** this Objective

- 1: The water quality targets/limits that have been set for this Objective do not balance with the reality. We have towns, cities, people, vehicles, hydro, pine tree plantations, weeds and pests that now "create" a different scene to that of 150 years ago.
- 2: To seek restoration of the rivers will significantly impact on the health (including mental health) and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities with people struggling to farm in a sustainable manner.
- 3: Waikato Regional Council has too much focus on the environment with no real solution that should encompass families and communities. There is a greater risk of non sustainability, this means the Plan and its Objectives are contrary to sustainable management.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make these decisions:**

- 1: Waikato Regional Council withdraws Plan Change 1 in its entirety.
- 2: Waikato Regional Council provides a Plan that sets water quality targets/limits that are achievable, sustainable and support the health and wellbeing of people, families and communities.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

**OBJECTIVES 3.11.2**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** *Long term restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit*

Our submission is that we **support** the ***long term protection of water quality***

Our submission is that we **oppose** the term and process of **"RESTORATION"** in this Objective.

- 1: The goal of restoring the river to the state it was in 1863 is impossible as the variables cannot be compared.
- 2: Waikato Regional Council has too much focus on the environment with no real solution that should encompass families and communities. There is a greater risk of non sustainability, this means the Plan and its Objectives are contrary to sustainable management.
- 3: Farm Succession – Plan Change 1 10 year plan – this creates a huge uncertainty for our son, our business and communities. Our son is not prepared to "step" into farm succession with only 10 years of some certainty and 70 years of no certainty. He sees this as not being sustainable, not being profitable and that his rights to farm has been eroded.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

The term and process of **"RESTORATION"** be replaced with the term and process of **"MAINTENANCE"** which could ensure the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of communities to survive.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

**OBJECTIVE 2:** *Social, economic and cultural wellbeing is maintained long term*

Our submission is that we **oppose** the reason for adopting this Objective

- 1: ***"... may require a potentially significant departure from how businesses and communities currently function..."***
- 2: We have serious concerns that Waikato Regional Council has no evidence to support the ***"benefits"*** to our communities, socially and economically from the restoration and protection to water quality. To date no Waikato Regional Councillor, including Alan Livingston (who was flustered when we put this to him) can tell us ***"how my community will benefit socially and economically"***
- 3: Plan Change 1 will lead to financial burdens that will impact on our business which in time will erode our mental wellbeing – we fear there will be a rise in suicides.
- 4: We do have serious concerns as finances will be under pressure which will lead to essential farm maintenance being compromised, such as tractor and motorbike services.
- 5: Waikato Regional Council has too much focus on the environment with no real solution that should encompass families and communities. There is a greater risk of non sustainability, this means the Plan and its Objectives are contrary to sustainable management.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

- 1: That Plan Change 1 is suspended. Waikato Regional Council must provide for us a Plan that ensures economic and social wellbeing of people and communities which includes vibrant and sustainable businesses.
- 2: The economic and social costs of managing our business to limits must be at the forefront of determining what these limits are. Plan Change 1 as proposed does not provide for economic resilience of people and communities, therefore does not represent sustainable management.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

**OBJECTIVE 3:** *Short term improvements in water quality in the first stage of restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit*

Our submission is that we **oppose** this Objective

- 1: **"REASONS FOR ADOPTING OBJECTIVE 4"** Vision and Strategy – **"...in order to maintain the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of communities during the 80 yr journey, the first stage must ensure that overall costs to people can be sustained"** This statement (pg29) speaks volumes and it is very evident that our business will not be sustained under Plan Change 1 nor will communities be vibrant.
- 2: Farm Succession – Plan Change 1 10 year plan – this creates a huge uncertainty for our son, our business and communities. Our son is not prepared to "step" into farm succession with only 10 years of some certainty and 70 years of no certainty. He sees this as not being sustainable, not being profitable and that his rights to farm has been eroded.
- 3: Waikato Regional Council has too much focus on the environment with no real solution that should encompass families and communities. There is a greater risk of non sustainability, this means the Plan and its Objectives are contrary to sustainable management.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must withdraw Plan Change 1 in its entirety.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***OBJECTIVE 4 "b"*** - *recognising that further contaminant reductions will be required by subsequent regional plans and signalling anticipated future management approaches that will be needed to meet Objective 1*

Our submission is that we **oppose** this Objective

There is no certainty in this 80 yr plan, yet we are expected to meet further requirements with no rules or guidelines being outlined.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must provide for us the remaining 70 years of the Plan **"NOW"** – if this is not achievable we seek that Plan Change 1 is dissolved in its entirety.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***OBJECTIVE 5 "b" : Mana Tangata – Protecting and restoring tangata whenua values***

Our submission is that we **oppose** this Objective

We oppose *section "b"* of this objective as no matter who has ownership of the land, this should not determine what rules are applied. Ownership does not affect contaminant discharge.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

This rule must be common to all land owners.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLICIES 3.11.3***

***POLICY 1: Manage diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens***

Our submission is that we **oppose** sections "**a**" and "**b**" with reference to discharge.

This policy disadvantages the low discharger outright and "their entitled" discharge rate has been stymied while the moderate/high dischargers reduce their discharge to a level which would still be higher than the low discharger.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Low leaching land uses (e.g. 15 – 20 kgN/ha/yr) are permitted and are enabled to increase discharges up to this level.

Our submission is that we **oppose** section "**c**" for sheep and beef farmers.

1: To fence some areas of waterways will financially impact on businesses and families.

2: This will be the position on our farm –

- 5 km of 2 wire fencing
- 7.5 km of 3 wire fencing
- Costs - \$103,500.00 approx

This does not include additional bridges and culverts which will be required. The financial costs to us are not viable. Our other concern

is, after the first 10 years will this fencing be a lost cause as Waikato Regional Council impose further restrictions such as retiring land.

- 3: Cattle are an important tool for maintaining grass length on paddocks – should grass length be allowed to grow too long it “lies down” and this leads to a mat/carpet of grass which in turn does not allow moisture to be absorbed into the ground, therefore rainfall water “runs” too quickly into streams causing erosion.
- 4: Some areas of winding waterways would see a larger area of land being fenced off and therefore an increase in noxious weeds (gorse, tutsan, blackberry, barberry) not being controlled by stock. This creates rising farm costs with the increase in chemical spray.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

To have ***section “c”*** amended to low dischargers being excluded from this policy.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLICY 2: Tailored approach to reducing diffuse discharges from farming activities***

Our submission is that we **oppose** section "c" – Nitrogen Reference Point

- 1: This will have a huge impact on our farm as we purchased a very run down farm and we are still developing our farm as finances permit.
- 2: This will create loss of opportunities to optimise farming potential and restrict flexibility in our farming practices, along with land value reduced due to our farm underdeveloped and no room to move.
- 3: Capping nitrogen discharge over set 2 year period allows higher dischargers of nitrogen to carry on and lower dischargers of nitrogen capped at low levels with no flexibility.
- 4: Setting Nitrogen Reference Point over a set 2 year period could have devastating effects on our business -
  - *DROUGHT* – with a "dry season" we reduce beef stock numbers to ensure farm stock are fed well.
  - *DAIRY STOCK* – we graze dairy heifers – dairy grazing is adversely affected when the dairy industry is in a downturn as clients send out less stock to compensate for this.

With these 2 factors being major players in our business we would be crippled under the set 2 year period.

- 5: With unpredictable weather and markets how can we be "locked" into a system that is totally rigid which will lead to financial restraints.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

To have ***NO CAPPING/GRANDPARENTING*** to the Nitrogen Reference Point

## ***POLICY 2***

Our submission is that we **oppose** *section "d"* with the same reference to ***POLICY 1***

This policy rewards farmers who are currently polluting.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Low leaching land uses (e.g. 15 – 20 kgN/ha/yr) are permitted and are enabled to increase discharges up to this level.

## ***POLICY 2***

Our submission is that we **oppose** *section "e"* with the same reference to ***POLICY 1*** fencing of waterways.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

To have *section "e"* amended to low dischargers being excluded from this policy.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLICY 3: Tailored approach to reducing diffuse discharges from commercial vegetable production systems***

Although we have limited knowledge in commercial vegetable production (we are not involved in this sector) we do have some serious concerns how Plan Change 1 will impact on affordable vegetable production. There would be an impact on the grower and the purchasers.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLICY 5: Staged approach***

Our submission is that we **support** the staged approach

Our submission is that we **oppose** ***"preparing for further reductions that will require subsequent regional plans"***

- 1: Waikato Regional Council has not been able to inform us (we have specifically asked about this) what will the subsequent plans be???. This is an appalling position that no business should be put in – preparing for what? Farming is a long term investment and Waikato Regional Council does not provide us with any surety with this Plan.
- 2: Farm Succession – Plan Change 1 10 year plan – this creates a huge uncertainty for our son, our business and communities. Our son is not prepared to "step" into farm succession with only 10 years of some

certainty and 70 years of no certainty. He sees this as not being sustainable, not being profitable and that his rights to farm has been eroded.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must provide for us the remaining 70 years of the Plan "**NOW**" – if this is not achievable we seek that Plan Change 1 is dissolved in its entirety.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLICY 6: Restricting land use change***

Our submission is that we **oppose** this Policy

- 1: Land values will be entirely different between low dischargers and higher dischargers (the higher dischargers will have more flexibility) The polluters being rewarded and therefore penalising the lower dischargers.
- 2: This policy rewards the higher dischargers.
  - e.g. *Land Owner 1* discharge is at 30  
*Land Owner 2* discharge is at 10 and they apply for land use change which would see their discharge rise to 15. If *Land Owner 2* is disallowed the land use change, you are advantaging the higher discharger.
- 3: Waikato Regional Council states "***innovation and new practices***" – some of these may lead to the need for land use change – will we be allowed to "*turn back the clock*"???

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must remove this Policy.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLICY 7: Preparing for allocation in the future***

Our submission is that we **oppose** *section "b"* of this Policy

This policy is about the land and contaminants – there is no place for land owners ethnicity – all for one and one for all.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must remove *section "b"* of this Policy.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***POLCIY 16:*** *Flexibility for development of land returned under Te Tiriti O Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Maori land*

Our submission is that we **oppose** this Policy

As opposed in ***POLICY 7*** – *section "b"* rules applied must be the same for everyone.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must remove *section "b"* of this Policy.

### ***IMPLEMENTATION METHODS 3.11.4***

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

#### ***IMPLEMENTATON METHOD 3.11.4.2: Certified Industry Scheme***

Our submission is that we **support** this Implementation Method

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

Waikato Regional Council must provide to us that ***best management practice*** is also ***best practicable options***.

- e.g. Excluding stock from waterways on many sheep and beef farms will not be the ***best practicable option***.

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

***IMPLEMENTATION METHOD 3.11.4.3: Farm Environment Plans***

Our submission is that we **support** this Implementation Method

Farm Environment Plans create a greater understanding for us with reference to our own farm and the means to mitigate issues.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make this decision:**

To retain this Implementation Method

## **RULES 3.11.5**

**The specific provisions of Plan Change 1 proposal that our submission relates to are:**

**RULE 3.11.5.3:** *Permitted Activity Rule – Farming activities with a Farm Environment Plan under a Certified Industry Scheme*

Our submission is that we **oppose** the following points

- 1: We **oppose** the blanket rules with reference to stock exclusion from all permanently flowing waterbodies.
- 2: We **oppose** the grandparenting of the Nitrogen Reference Point as this leaves us with no flexibility and still rewarding the polluters (as we opposed in **POLICY 2**)
- 3: We **oppose** the stock exclusion from land >25 degree slopes. In our farming operation we have successfully grazed this type of land with good farm management and careful control of stock numbers on this land.
- 4: We have been custodians of land for 35 year plus and we have farmed in a manner that the environment has been nurtured and we wish to be able to continue farming in a sustainable way. At this stage as Plan Change 1 has been proposed we cannot see a positive farming future for us.

**We seek that Waikato Regional Council will make these decisions:**

(These decisions relate to the relevant numbers in the submissions stated above)

- 1: We seek flexibility within this rule for ***best farming options***.
  
- 2: We seek that Waikato Regional Council implements rules with flexibility for the low dischargers.
  
- 3: We seek that the blanket rule is amended to each farming operation on this degree of slope accessed accordingly to ***best farm management/practices***
  
- 4: We seek that Waikato Regional Council will dissolve Plan Change 1 and begin discussions with **both** urban and rural sectors around the **same** table at the **same** time.