

Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 1 For The Waikato and Waipa River Catchments

I am submitting on behalf of Fiona and John Scott of Hauturu. We have farmed together in the catchments of the Kawhia Harbour for nearly 50 years. John is a third generation farmer.

Very recently we succeeded our holdings between our two sons and so are no longer land owners. However we still live and work on this land for our families.

Good stewardship of our land has been of paramount importance to us. This has enabled us to hand onto our sons viable opportunities and we would wish that they are able to do the same for their families.

Some key points in the proposed plan changes would be difficult for us to achieve if they were applied to our hill country in particular.

We are concerned that a precedent may be set by this process and that these requirements of concern could be transposed to our zone as they exist now.

Therefore we would like to take this opportunity to make the following comments.

Yours faithfully,
Fiona and John Scott

Fiona Scott
John Scott

8/3/2017.

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<p>The specific provisions my submission relates to are:</p> <p>State specifically what Objective, Policy, Rule, map, glossary, or issue you are referring to.</p>	<p>My submission is that:</p> <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether you support, or oppose each provision listed in column 1; • brief reasons for your views. 	<p>The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:</p> <p>Give:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • precise details of the outcomes you would like to see for each provision. The more specific you can be the easier it will be for the Council to understand the outcome you seek
<p><i>Provisions</i></p> <p>Objective 1 – Long Term restoration and protection of water quality for each sub-catchment and Freshwater Management Unit.</p>	<p>We support this objective</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>We support this objective in principle but feel that the word restore is setting the bar too high.</p> <p>Over 4 million people live in New Zealand now and their needs all need to be met sustainably.</p>	<p>As an alternative we propose to replace restore with improve.</p>

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<p>Objective 2 – Social, economic and cultural wellbeing is maintained in the long term.</p>	<p>We support this.</p>	
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<p>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.</p>	<p>We support this.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is Retained as proposed</p>
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<p>Objective 4 – People and community resilience</p>	<p>We support this.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Retained as proposed</p>
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Policy 1: Manage diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens

Section C

Progressively excluding cattle, horses, deer, pigs from rivers, streams, drains, wetlands and lakes.

We oppose Section C of this policy.

The reasons for this are:

We oppose Section C in areas of low stocking rates. Costs would be prohibitive and we are unaware of any data supporting this requirement. We feel that we run appropriate stocking rates on a steeper country, do not crop and make no supplementary feed.

I seek that the provision is: amended as set out below

As an alternative I propose

That section C excludes areas of low intensity farming.

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<p>Policy 9: Sub-catchment (including edge of field) mitigation planning, co-ordination and funding.</p>	<p>We support this policy.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Retained as proposed</p>
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Policy 16: Flexibility for development of land returned under Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlements and multiple owned Maori land.

We oppose this.

The reasons for this are:

We oppose this policy. It is unfair. Rules for stewardship should be the same for everyone.

Many European have long and abiding attachments to their land that they have farmed for generations.

I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety.

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<p>Implementation Methods 3.11.4.1 Working with Others</p>	<p>We support these methods.</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>In particular we support the introduction of FEP's especially if they are used to provide discretion and data for improved management.</p> <p>In particular we also support 3.11.45 sub catchment scale planning.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Retained as proposed</p>
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<p>Implementation Methods 3.11.4.5 Sub-catchment scale planning</p>	<p>We support this.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is Retained as proposed</p>
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<p>Implementation Methods 3.11.4.3 Farm Environment Plans</p>	<p>We support this.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Retained as proposed</p>
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<p>Rules 3.11.5.1 Permitted Activity Rule – Small and Low Intensity farming activities</p>	<p>We support the permitted activity rule, but oppose the requirement for stock exclusion.</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>We oppose the total stock exclusion in point 2.</p> <p>The financial implications of stock to be excluded by this provision would make farming much of our country unviable.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>That exclusion of stock be removed and replaced with a fencing policy on low intensity farms that allows discretion on a farm by farm basis.</p>
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<p>Rules 3.11.5.2 Permitted Activity Rule - Other farming activities</p> <p>Point 2</p> <p>Point 3. e.</p> <p>Point 4 c</p>	<p>We support the permitted activity rule.</p> <p>BUT:</p> <p>We oppose the total stock exclusion rule.</p> <p>We oppose the total 3 metre setback. In most cases it will be impractical and definitely not viable.</p> <p>We oppose 4c.</p> <p>Large tracts of our land will exceed this slope. Our slopes are well grassed and show no signs of slippage. We do not cultivate hill country.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>That this point be removed and replaced with best practical option.</p> <p>That clause 4c is removed.</p>
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<p>Rules 3.11.5.6 Restricted Discretionary Activity Rule - The use of land for farming activities.</p>	<p>We support the terms of notification for this rule.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Retained as proposed.</p>
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<p>Rules Schedule C – Stock Exclusion</p>	<p>We oppose this schedule</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>We have many kilometers of waterways that would require fencing under a blanket rule.</p> <p>As stated previously we could not afford to fence all waterways and remain viable. The effects of this alone would be socially, economically and culturally crippling. It is hard to see how the environmental gains perceived can be justified.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety</p>
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Yours sincerely

Fiona Scott

8/3/2017

John Scott

Signature

Date