

Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 1

Background

I have been farming for 46 years in a variety of farm systems, 38 years of which were on the same property. In that time my wife and I originally farmed sheep and beef but rising costs forced a gradual change over several years to maize growing and grazing dairy heifers.

Since selling our original farm we have been maize growing with a small number of beef cattle on 47 Ha surrounded by dairy farms. We also winter graze dairy cows on annual rye grass planted after maize silage has been harvested.

We have serious concerns about the direction PC 1 is taking and the potential to cause economic and social harm in our rural areas. I will expand on the following points at the hearing phase of the submission process.

- 1 The effect of deintensification on farms and the flow on to rural communities.
- 2 The huge cost of consents and compliance.
- 3 The plan was passed on a casting vote by the previous council suggesting even the council had reservations about the plan.
- 4 The lack of sound science and agreement as to the actual state of rivers and the source of the contaminants.
- 5 PC 1 aims for higher standards than NPS FW.
- 6 The forecast cost to the rural economy in the Waikato Waipa area.

**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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Hamilton East
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HAMILTON 3240

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. ✓

John Erskine 7/02/17
Signature date



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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>Provision</p> <p>Schedule B. Page 47.</p> <p>Nitrogen Reference Point.</p>	<p>I support <u>oppose</u> and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>The two years suggested for creating the N.R.P. were both drought years which will have resulted in lower nitrogen use and possibly lower stocking rates.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed <u>amended as set out</u> below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>A longer time span to give a more accurate picture of average practices, stocking rates, fertilizer use etc.</p>

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Provision	I support/ <u>oppose</u> and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ <u>amended as set out</u> below
<p>Rule 3.11.5.7. PAGE 45 LANDUSE CHANGE</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: Takes away the freedom of landowners to change their way or type of farming. In my case I have 47ha surrounded by dairy farms that I have owned for 9 years. Previously it was leased by a neighbouring dairy farmer as part of his milking platform. We are currently growing maize but as we are getting closer to retirement one option has always been to sell to a neighbour to expand his dairy operation. This is now no longer an option as any livestock farming system will have a higher N.R.P. than growing maize.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose Allow land use change with mitigation systems in place.</p>

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<p>Rule 3.11.5.2 Page 40. CULTIVATION WITHIN 5m of waterway.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: TOO GENERAL</p> <p>Doesn't take into account land contour, soil types or cultivation practices.</p> <p>Owners rights to farm their land in a responsible manner are being eroded, land use and profitability are being reduced and no compensation is being offered.</p> <p>On some properties a 5m margin could amount to a considerable area.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>Reduce margin or buy affected land and compensate for loss of income.</p> <p>Education and awareness of problems and solutions for specific areas will achieve greater results.</p>

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<p>Provision</p> <p>Rule 3.11.5.2</p> <p>Page 40.</p> <p>CULTIVATION OF SLOPES > 15°</p>	<p>I support/<u>oppose</u> and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are: A. 15° Slope is not very steep. Will rule out a huge amount of land currently used for maize growing for dairy farms.</p> <p>It does not take into account the percentage of an area the may be over 15°, the distance from a waterway, is there any flat land between the slope and the water way or any mitigation in place.</p> <p>Maize silage is a useful tool for reducing methane emissions from cows when feed as a supplement.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/<u>amended as set out</u> below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose Raise the 15° limit</p>
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