

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

**Submission Form**

Submission on a publicly 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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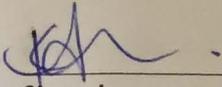
**Email:** keri\_wynyard@yahoo.co.nz

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.**

**If others make similar submissions, I would consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.**

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Signature

07.3.17

date

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Signature

date

# WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 - WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

## Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils proposed Plan Change 1.

My name is Keri Taylor and I am submitting this on behalf of our family, Tim and Lyn Taylor (farm owners) and myself and husband Matt Taylor who lease half the property.

We are sheep and beef farmers in the Waipa catchment and have been farming our Ngaroma property for 20 years.

Since we have arrived, we have taken great care in restoring native bush on our farm and have changed our farming practice to be more environmentally aware. We are guardians of this land for future generations and this belief is the foundation of our commitment to protecting the land and waterways.

Our Ngaroma farm is steep hill country with high rainfall which creates a very fragile environment. Our stocking policy was modified years ago to accommodate this environment, which includes not carrying heavy breeding cattle and not working any steep land.

However, as passionate as we are about farming in an environmentally friendly manner, we remain realistic in the costs associated with implementing some of these protocols. We are drystock farmers because we love the land, not for the financial gain, which is why the Healthy Rivers Plan in its current state will carry huge financial burden for us.

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The specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to and the decisions it seeks from Council are as detailed in the following table. 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.

## **The specific provisions that my submission relates to:**

Stock exclusion.

## **I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

Oppose.

## **My submission is that:**

- The number of waterways and the contour of the land on our farm would see that fencing all waterways would be an almost impossible task to undertake. We are steep hill country which means we are limited in our capability of fencing certain terrain.
- Our hill country is usually farmed using larger paddocks. Fencing off all waterways would cause us to farm in a more intensive manner as large paddocks will become split into several smaller ones.
- Further definition required of what constitutes a "Waterway" and which ones would require fencing. Our farm has a huge number of small creeks and drains. To fence all of these is financially devastating for us.
- We argue that a huge financial cost for us would result in little or no change to the already superior water quality on our farm. We can swim and drink from any creek on our farm and there is an abundance of waterlife which is a testament to the cleanliness of our water.
- To undergo all fencing of our property would mean pushing tracks down very steep hill country which will cause erosion and sediment run-off for years to come thus creating an environmental disaster for our land and waterways. This goes in the complete opposite direction of what we have been trying to achieve as a family on our land for the last 20 years.

## **The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

We would like to see the following changes to Plan Change 1:

- 1) Rules regarding stock exclusion be personalised to each farm taking into consideration their intensity, water reticulation and environmentally sensitive practices.
- 2) Farm Environment Plans to be used to target specific areas of high concern.
- 3) Stock exclusions to be aligned with national standards (slope of land and width of waterways).

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**The specific provisions that my submission relates to:**

Withdrawal of the Hauraki Iwi part of the Waikato Catchment

**I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

Oppose

**My submission is that:**

It is unfair and unrealistic to expect water quality goals to be achieved if a large and important part of the catchment is excluded. If we are expected to undergo huge financial stress to implement our requirements under this plan, we expect the entire catchment to be included in that.

**The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

We would like to see the entire plan withdrawn until the whole catchment area can be included.

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**The specific provisions that my submission relates to:**

Land use restriction

**I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

Oppose

**My submission is that:**

- We as individual farmers should be able to decide how we farm the land that we own.
- Environmentally-sensitive and low-intensity farms should be free to take up future opportunities as they arise, especially if these opportunities are more economical for the farm.

**The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

We suggest this rule be applied on a farm-by-farm basis and that land use change should be allowed as long as the change is in keeping with environmental and economical standards for that farm.

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**The specific provisions that my submission relates to:**

Farm Environment Plans

**I support or oppose the above provision/s:**

Support with amendments.

**My submission is that:**

FEP's could be a valuable tool to help cater requirements for each farm individually based on their environmental impact and intensity. These plans could help to identify high-impact areas on the farm and implement rules specific to that area rather than using blanket standards.

**The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:**

We would like to see the use of Farm Environmental Plans to personalise rules on a farm-by-farm basis according to the environmental impact that specific farm is having on the waterways.

Yours sincerely

KERI TAYLOR



Signature

07.3.17

Date