

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

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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.

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



Signature



date

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Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Council's proposed Plan Change 1.

My name is Kylie Brewer and currently I am a young rural professional whose long term goal is to own and farm a small block of land of approximately 40-50 hectares within the Waipa or Waikato catchment.

My aim is for this block to be run as a commercial cattle enterprise. This cattle enterprise will focus on finishing Wagyu, and breeding and finishing Angus cattle, whilst also operating a small cattle stud of show stock.

My future farming enterprise will have a strong environmental focus, all waterways will be fenced off, I will plant trees and shelter belts where necessary and I will have hives for honey production, as I believe bees are an essential but also indirect mutual partner in my operation.

The plan change as it stands provides too much uncertainty to enable a future young farmer to effectively plan, research and budget for their future farming venture.

General Submission

I oppose Plan Change 1 as it currently stands. Whilst I support the Waikato Regional Council's vision to improve the water quality of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers, I believe that the plan change as it stands will prevent young farmers from ever owning economically viable farming businesses in the Waikato Region. It will also prevent them from seeing careers on the land as enjoyable, rewarding and financially viable careers. The plan change as it stands will likely destroy small rural communities, as they have become economically unsustainable, due to land use change from communities of strong and viable farming businesses, to plantation forests as this has been deemed the most effective land use for this class of land.

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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 my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
	SUPPORT / OPPOSE	REASON	RELIEF SOUGHT
<i>Sub catchment approach</i>	I support the Council's planned sub catchment approach.	This is a proven and effective method for achieving water quality outcomes on a small scale. It also brings communities together and sees the community working to address the problems and to work towards improved water quality outcomes within the catchment.	<p>This approach should only be implemented in the catchments where there is long term and reliable scientific data which shows that there is a water quality issue.</p> <p>This data should clearly show which contaminants are causing water quality concerns within that catchment.</p>
<p>Rule 3.11.5.1</p> <p><i>Small and Low Intensity Farming Operations</i></p>	I support the provision of small and low intensity farming activities	<p>I believe that lifestyle farming should remain as a permitted activity, provided that the property is registered with the regional council and that the property is stocked at an appropriate level for its size, contour and soil type.</p> <p>Low risk and low intensity farming enterprises should be able to be carried out as of right.</p> <p>Flexibility is key to small farming operations and providing that the enterprise is registered with the regional council, the enterprise should be able to</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is amended as follows:</p> <p>That the property should be able to be run as part of another farming enterprise that spans across several properties. If the land owner chooses to do so for economic or practical reasons.</p> <p>That the stocking rate of 6 stock units or less be deleted.</p>

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
		maintain existing use rights in the event of any future plan changes.	<p>That the requirement that properties over 4.1ha having to supply their annual stock numbers, annual fertilizer use and annual brought in animal feed be deleted.</p> <p>That this rule applies for properties of between 2 and 20 hectares.</p>
<i>Farm Environment Plans</i>	I support the use of Farm Environment Plans for properties over 20ha in size	<p>I feel that Farm Environment Plans are an effective tool for helping land owners to develop an environmental plan that suits their farm system.</p> <p>The plans also help the farmers to identify any nutrient or environmental hotspots and to help them plan for any future farm development and how to minimise any environmental impacts of this development.</p>	I seek that the Council retains this provision but should not have such rigid timeframes for farmers to complete a farm environment plan. Particularly when there are not enough skilled consultants who are able to assist a farmer with creating a Farm Environment Plan.
<i>Schedule B Nitrogen Reference Point</i>	I do not support the introduction of a Nitrogen Reference Point for all properties which are greater than 20 hectares in size	<p>I feel that imposing a Nitrogen Reference Point on each farm sets a limit for the amount of nutrients which that farm can leach.</p> <p>It does not provide flexibility for a sheep and beef farm, whose strengths are the ability to chase the market and switch between cattle and sheep as the seasons and markets change.</p> <p>Nitrogen is not the key contaminant on a sheep and beef farm and therefore sheep and beef farmers should not be restricted to a reference</p>	<p>I seek that the Council remove the Nitrogen Reference Point from the plan change.</p> <p>As an alternative I propose that each farm should have a Farm Environment Plan completed for their farm.</p> <p>The Farm Environment Plan is a more effective way for managing nutrients and sediment loss from a farm system, as opposed to trying to hold farmers to</p>

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The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
		<p>point.</p> <p>Grandparenting is not fair to everyone and will only reward the polluters. Sheep and Beef farms are low emitters of nitrogen. The introduction of grandparenting rules, will mean that many farmers are unable to further develop and enhance their businesses performance and productivity.</p>	<p>a set point in time.</p>
<p><i>Stock Exclusion</i></p>	<p>I support in part that stock be excluded from waterways</p>	<p>Stock should only be excluded from the waterway where it is practical to do so. Stock should only be excluded from waterways where water flows through the waterway 365 days a year.</p> <p>Fencing setbacks from the waterway should be 1 metre or less. A set back of 3-5 metres takes too much land out of production and will be too difficult for the farmer to manage effectively and efficiently.</p>	<p>I seek that the Council allows for flexible stock exclusion methods as permanent fencing will not be practical or cost effective on every farm.</p> <p>Stock exclusion should not be required for hill country properties as it is impractical and cost prohibitive.</p>
<p><i>Rule 3.11.5.7</i> <i>Land Use Change</i></p>	<p>I do not support the Land Use Change rule</p>	<p>I feel that this rule does not provide certainty for farmers as the rule is only in place for 10 years.</p> <p>This rule has the potential to reduce the capital value of the property and future farming enterprises which may be able to be run on the property.</p>	<p>That the Council deletes the Land Use Change rule</p> <p>A Farm Environment Plan should be used to determine the environmental risks of the land to help determine if the future proposed use of the land is appropriate for the lands contour and soil type/s.</p>

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Yours sincerely

Kylie Lynn Brewer



8 march 2017

Signature

Date