

# **Submission – Proposed WRC Healthy Rivers Plan**

## **Plan Change 1**

All lifestyle block and smaller hobby farm owners should be excluded from the plan change rules and conditions. These owners did not contribute to the degradation and polluting of the waterways of the Waikato. These owners put on much less fertilizer, sometimes years without any.

They also plant many more trees than large scale intensive dairy farm businesses. These lifestyle and hobby farm owners also tend to practice a more alternative and organic approach to looking after their land. Their land is not their source of income unlike an intensive dairy farm. Their land is their recreation and therapy and the animals that they have help maintain that balance.

It is unfair to include lifestyle and hobby farm properties of varying acreages under these proposed rules and regulations and subject them to the scrutiny of these rules and regulations that should apply only to intensive farms and large scale dairy farms.

It is also unfair to include horses as a major pollutant contributor. Horse numbers in the region are so low that they would barely figure against the number of dairy cows..

It is highly inaccurate and unreliable to use data from Perrin Agricultural Consultants suggesting that a large horse is equivalent to twice that of a dairy cow. (The original publicists of this data did not take into account the difference in stock management patterns that horses require if they are not to suffer health problems nor was the data peer reviewed.)

The amount of feed to sustain a horse varies hugely from horse to horse depending on size. A large horse can be sustained on considerably less feed than a dairy cow. Also the owners often collected or harrow the manure back into the pasture as a natural fertiliser.

With exception of large scale Racing Stables, horses are owned by and kept on lifestyle blocks and hobby farms for recreational and therapeutic purposes and as are any of the other animals kept on these properties. Horses can also be used for transport

The soil structure of lifestyle blocks and hobby farms is considerably more organic and healthier than that of an intensive farm or dairy farm that relies so heavily on the use of chemical fertilisers in order to maintain high production output, urea being the worst chemical creating imbalance in the soil structure. It is the dairy farms that have caused the excessive pollution

and degradation of land and waterways throughout the Waikato over the last 15 years and earlier in the owners quest for highest possible production at any cost.

It is Fonterra who have demanded and coerced dairying over this period to exploit the land, animals and environment at all cost. The removal from farms of large swathes of well-established trees has also had a major impact. Early on under Fonterra's control it was made clear to low producing yet sustainable farms that Fonterra would not pick up their milk unless they increased production.

This was when massive uncontrolled farm intensification action really accelerated with chemical fertilisers and supplementary feed being used in never before seen quantities.

Organic sustainable dairy farming principles were never recommended by Fonterra let alone accepted by farmers and to this day are still not.

It is the responsibility of the Waikato Regional Council to specifically target Fonterra and the dairy farms and make changes with them.

It is unfair and counterproductive to target and lump in other landowners alongside these highly intensive and damaging farm practices, and to have to justify their existence on their own properties.

Ever since these high input/high output intensive farming practices became the economic fashion with Fonterra so many people outside of the dairy industry could see early on how this would lead to such environmental damage that we now have.

Waikato Regional Council must not hold lifestyle block and hobby farm owners responsible for this environmental outcome. It is these very owners who do the tree planting on their land to improve the environment and look after their and animals in a sustainable way that other farming practices have not.

This is why these property owners should be excluded from the Waikato Regional Council Healthy Rivers Proposed Plan changes.

Matthew Adams  
David Adams  
Anthea Adams

11th January 2017

# PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN CHANGE 1 WAIKATO AND WAIPĀ RIVER CATCHMENTS



**Mandatory questions form for submissions on Proposed  
Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 – Waikato and Waipā River Catchments.**

**Important: Save this PDF to your computer before answering. Please check or update your software to allow for editing. We recommend Acrobat Reader.**

**FORM 5, Resource Management Act 1991**

SubForm	PC12016	COVER SHEET	
<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>			
		Submission Number	
Entered		Initials	
File Ref		Sheet 1 of	

## THIS FORM CAN BE

<b>Mailed to</b>	Chief Executive, 401 Grey Street, Private Bag 3038, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton 3240
<b>Delivered to</b>	Waikato Regional Council, 401 Grey Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton
<b>Faxed to</b>	(07) 859 0998 <b>Please Note:</b> if you fax your submission, please post or deliver a copy to one of the above addresses
<b>Emailed to</b>	healthyivers@waikatoregion.govt.nz <b>Please Note:</b> Submissions received by email must contain full contact details.
<b>Online at</b>	www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers

## YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS - please ensure these details match those on your original submission

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## TRADE COMPETITION AND ADVERSE EFFECTS (select appropriate)

- I could /  could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
- I am /  am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:
- (a) adversely effects the environment, and
- (b) does not relate to the trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

## PLEASE INDICATE BY TICKING THE RELEVANT BOX WHETHER YOU WISH TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF YOUR SUBMISSION

- I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.
- I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submissions.

## JOINT SUBMISSIONS

- If others make a similar submission, please tick this box if you will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

## SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER - note you can also type your name to certify the above information is true and correct

Signature: Matthew Perrin Adams

Date: 08/03 2017

Personal information is used for the administration of the submission process and will be made public. All information collected will be held by Waikato Regional Council, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

**PLEASE CHECK** that you have provided all of the information requested and if you are having trouble filling out this form, phone Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 for help.