

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.

Comment [j1]: If this is a group submission everyone must include their details and sign the form, unless the group is a legal entity.

To help the council the group could give itself a name ie collectively referred to as the group.

WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL PROPOSED WAIKATO REGIONAL PLAN

CHANGE 1-WAIKATO AND WAIPA RIVER CATCHMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Councils Plan Change 1. I have been Dairy Farming since 1956, purchasing my first farm of 110 acres, milking 70 cows in 1966. Over the years we purchased adjoining land to increase our milking platform to 400 cows. With family becoming involved in our enterprise we made the decision to sell in 2010 and purchased a larger property in Piopio. We have continued to fence and plant this property to reduce our contaminant losses.

My opening remarks are to emphasize that most farmers have had to grow their business or sell out as we are reliant on World Prices, but face ever increasing Internal Cost Structure. I fully endorse that we want to improve our Waterways, but believe that the present proposals do not have sufficient flexibility.

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.

1 Schedule B Nitrogen Reference Point (NRP)

Nitrogen management adopts a grandparenting approach. I agree that farms with the highest 25% loss be required to reduce their nitrogen leaching, but do not agree that a farm should be locked into Overseers 2014/15 years. This could have the grave consequences on change of ownership of the land, whereby the new owner could not utilize the science and technical knowledge that shall be available in the coming years.

2 Schedule C Stock Exclusion

As a dairy farmer we have been implementing this Policy over many years, but understand that some properties would have difficulty in implementing this policy because of the terrain and cost with little environmental benefit.

3 Rule 3.11.5.7. Non Complying Land Use Change Rule

I do not agree that this proposal should be set in concrete and greater flexibility is required, as I believe no one today can foresee what land may be used for in a 80 years timeframe.

As an example, I would point out the Kiwi Fruit and Wine Industries, which are relatively new in the context of the New Zealand Economy. Keep in mind our Standard of Living and Prosperity depend on our Exports whether we like it or not.

4 Reducing Contaminants losses from Farms

I agree that farmers identify and implement management practices which reduce these contaminant losses, but would like more detail on the levels which we are required to meet, and not have a new set of rules in later years after spending a considerable amount of capital initially.

I might add that Central Government in the 1970s had a role in creating these issues with their Livestock Incentive Scheme.

5 Farm Management Plan

As a Dairy Farmer we are already operating a Farm Management Plan

Signature *MJ Alaycott*

Date. *6th March 2017*