

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

NA 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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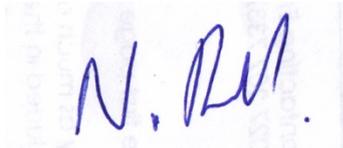
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I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of the submission but the proposed plan has a direct impact on my ability to farm. If changes sought in the plan are adopted they may impact on others but I am not in direct trade competition with them.

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.

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Signature

7 March 2017 _____
date

Signature

date

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Introduction

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

My name is Natasha Richardson and I farm on my partner's family farm in Mokauiti. We currently farm sheep, beef and dairy graziers within the Mokau catchment. Our farming practices and stocking rates are fairly consistent over time; however as economic factors change and farming returns decrease we need to be able to alter our farming practices for our business to remain viable. The home farm that my partner and I are on has been owned by the family for 12 years and the farm my partner's parents reside on was recently purchased 2 years ago. As this farm is a new addition, stock class changes will be made over time, with the intention to move away from dairy graziers.

We aim to farm in a financially viable way, whilst looking after our environment and would like to ensure the land resource is still available for the next generation to farm, and the generations after. We currently use very little in the way of Nitrogen inputs or cropping.

Whilst we are not within the catchments that will initially be affected by this proposed plan, I am aware of the likely hood that if the proposed plan goes ahead, then this plan will likely be the basis for any plan developed for our catchment. What is proposed in the current plan, if it were to be implemented in our catchment would have a large detrimental effect on our ability to farm in a profitable manner, and for our future generations to be able to continue the business.

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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
<p>nd 7</p> <p><i>Nitrogen Reference Point (NRP) and the use of OVERSEER to find NRP and monitor leaching</i></p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>I oppose the use of grandparenting in regards to Nitrate (N) leaching. This approach severely penalizes lower emitters and allows for the higher polluters, other than the top 25% which have to decrease to continue to farm as per normal. Those farmers that are higher N emitters ie dairy farmers, are then allowed to continue to farm as usual, retaining flexibility within their system, at the expense of the low emitters ie drystock farmers like ourselves, who are then extremely restricted within their current farming system, and are making up for the heavier polluters in regards to N leaching into the waterways.</p> <p>This lack of flexibility for the low emitters then makes it hard to maintain financial viability, particularly in a difficult season, as well as difficult for the business to fund other environmental projects on farm, such as those proposed within this plan.</p> <p>I oppose the use of OVERSEER as a tool for</p>	<p>The removal of the use of OVERSEER within the plan.</p> <p>The removal of the NRP from the plan.</p> <p>A move towards a more farm by farm, catchment by catchment approach that takes into account the catchments individual issues and the individual farm factors to achieve a more tailored solution that achieves better water quality whilst accommodating farmers individual needs more.</p>

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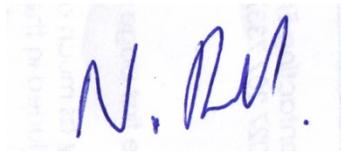
The specific provisions my submission relates to are:	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
		<p>implementing NRP and monitoring on farm leaching. This tool was never intended for this use, data output from the model can vary greatly depending on the quality of the data inputted and knowledge of the user and is based on a large number of assumptions. Program updates also tend to change output figures, meaning a farm may suddenly go from being within their NRP to exceeding it without changing any farming practices, when an updated version is released.</p>	
<p><i>Removal of Hauraki Iwi land</i></p>	<p>Oppose</p>	<p>The vision and strategy of the plan states “the entire length” and now a large portion of the river and catchment is removed.</p> <p>This removed part of the catchment has the ability to destroy any progress made by the rest of the catchment, and undermines the ability of the plan to achieve it’s objectives.</p>	<p>Place the process on hold until the Iwi is consulted properly or withdraw the plan altogether until the entire catchment can be included.</p>
<p><i>Stock Exclusion</i> <i>Schedule C Rule 3</i></p>	<p>Support with amendments</p>	<p>For farms such as ours the task of fencing waterways would be both physically extremely difficult due to the contour of the land but also financially crippling.</p> <p>Weed control within these fenced areas would be extremely difficult due to difficult access.</p> <p>It is difficult to decipher what waterways will be required to be fenced, at what point from the</p>	<p>A clearer definition of what needs to be fenced and so they are in accordance with the Clean Water Report.</p> <p>Other means of managing stock access.</p> <p>Exceptions for low stocking rate farms.</p> <p>A longer time frame to fence up water</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:
		waterway is the slope measured, as some of our land may be flat for a few meters either side then go into steep country.	ways to allow for budgeting. Assistance with the costs involved with fencing waterways.

Yours sincerely

Natasha Richardson



Signature

Date

7 March 2017