

**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

To: Waikato Regional Council
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Complete the following

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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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3/3/17

Signature

date

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Introduction

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

We are Helen and Neil Potter, and we run a 50/50 sheep and cattle farm on 257 ha in the priority 1&2 catchments.

This farm has been in the family for just under 60 years. My father put approximately 40 ha of native bush into a Queen Elizabeth covenant in the 1970's, 35 ha of which leads down to the Waipa River. We also have approximately 100 ha made up of several blocks of native bush and regeneration. On the more sensitive areas of the farm, we have planted smaller blocks of pines and exotic trees.

Our farm, situated in the Rangitoto district 16 km's east of Te Kuiti, comprises of 2/3's good contour and 1/3 steeper country. The easier land could be converted to dairy although we have never wanted to. We have two dairy farms on either side of us.

For the last 20 years we have supplied several organic butchers in Auckland with a year round supply of organic beef and lamb.

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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><i>Farm Environment Plans</i></p> <p>Provision 3.11.4.3 Policy 2, rule 3.11.5.3, 3.11.5.4 Schedule 1.</p>	<p>I support with amendments</p> <p><i>Farm Environment Plan Provision</i></p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>An environment plan would highlight what is needed on my farm to become compliant, both physically and financially. From this information, an approximate time frame for this work could be added to the plan.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: amended as set out below</p> <p>Firstly, to create an accurate environment plan, we need science based testing to be carried out to prove what the best practices are in relation to keeping our rivers clean and swimmable.</p> <p>This, in conjunction with qualified environmental planners and other farmers in your sub catchment, an environment plan could help created.</p> <p>An estimated time frame for the work to be done would be included ,along with the provision of being able to change this as your situation changes. e.g.</p>

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	My submission is that:		The decision I would like the Waikato Regional Council to make is:
			seasonal and market influences.
3.11.5.7 Non-Complying Activity Rule – Land Use Change	I oppose	<p>This land use change restriction has the potential to drastically effect the productivity and the capital value of my farm .</p> <p>The ability to adapt to climatic and market changes would be lost, leaving my business vulnerable, hence affecting profitability.</p> <p align="right">Also, as</p> <p>our farm is relatively good contour and we're in a predominantly dairying area, this ruling would potentially reduce the capital value from dairy support, back to sheep and beef value.</p> <p>My wife and I plan to retire off the farm with in the next 10 years, but under this ruling , we would have grave concerns for our equity and our retirement.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety</p> <p>Replace it with an approach based on land use capability as it is a better method of assessing land use rather than prohibition.</p>

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Yours sincerely

Neil Potter.



3/3/17.

Signature

Date