

Submission for Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

Name and Contact details:

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Trade Competition and Adverse Effects.

I could not gain an advantage in trade through this submission.

Outline:

We farm in a family company that runs two farms in the Coastal area of Environment Waikato and one property in the Taupo Catchment. We farm winter 27,000 conventional stock Units, in what we believe is a sustainable environmentally friendly manner. We in Principle are supportive of the overarching concept of the "Healthy Rivers Wai Ora", however we do have some concerns with particular areas of the proposed Plan Change 1 and welcome the opportunity to express these views.

(We do acknowledge that our Properties will not be directly affected however given that this will Plan will give a good foundation for what will happen for the Coastal Area so are keen to contribute).

The specific Provisions of proposed Plan Change one that my submission relates to is:

3.11.5.4

We oppose this rule

The reasons are:

Not practical to fence off all waterways given the contour of some of the terrain i.e. given the gorges on our farm. In some instances cattle may need to be excluded some paddocks – this affects the sustainability of an operation as it is reliant on integration of species for worm burdens to help avoid drench resistance and improve stock health and performance.

To exclude stock from all identified areas in a Farm Environment Plan, would be cost prohibitive – in 2015 the average surplus for Sheep and beef farms was eroded by poor sheep product prices, 2016 the same.

The decision we would like the Council to make would be:

We would like the Council have practical steps in place that are sustainable with regard to the fencing and maintaining of waterways.

Options could be:

Only have to fence off waterways that can get a tractor with a Post rammer to.

Practical way to for paddocks that are too steep to be fenced provide reticulated water and shaded areas so that stock do not “camp” in waterways.

If needed provide financial assistance to farmers who need it for excluding stock.

Relates to 3.11.2 Objective 1.

We oppose this target.

In the 1970's and 80's the New Zealand Government lent money to farmers to clear land under the land development Loan Scheme areas of our home farm was developed under this scheme – we accept that as farmers we have a responsibility to towards a target but what should this target look like? And should the cost of this be borne directly by farmers.

We wonder with this target is realistic given the historical level of development of Agriculture in the areas surrounding waterways?

We feel a good solution would be to take some time to get some better science to support whether this target is realistic and also we would like some financial assistance to help us all to work towards an adjusted goal?

Rule 3.11.5.2

We oppose this rule.

The reason that we are opposed to this is because we feel it does not line up with what the Ministry for the Primary Industries wishes to achieve which is :-

“To double primary industry exports in real terms from \$32 billion in June 2012 to over \$64 billion by 2025”. To achieve this, New Zealand's primary industries must grow at a rate of 5.5% per annum through to 2025”.

And to date Sheep and Beef farmers have been responding to the challenge – lambing percentage has increased 21% since 1991, and production per ewe has increased by 86%. We have concerns that this plan in its current form will effectively cap production.

We believe in that a plan such as this should be fair to all stakeholders and feel that under the proposal that as Sheep and Beef farmers we will be unfairly penalized because the nitrogen reference point will be calculated by averaging the annual modelled nutrient loss from properties in the years 2014/15 and 2015/16, which have been poor years financially.

Our farm in particular and others are presently under developed and I just can't see how under this Plan Change One that we will have the opportunity to develop our asset. And we feel that this rule will cap production, for us at the moment is below optimum, so it will affect the value of the farm if sold.

I wish that the Plan accommodated some of the realities of running a business such as this which profitability and sustainability have come under increasing pressure from Compliance costs and increased Input costs, coupled with poor sector returns.

And if I'm honest I can't think what a solution to this would be – and I think that reading this plan I believe that there has not been enough commercial reality placed on how this plan will impact on business and communities. I think there is a lot of common ground that can be expanded on to get a workable solution, I'm sure there is some.

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.

IF YOU HAVE USED EXTRA SHEETS FOR THIS SUBMISSION PLEASE ATTACH THEM TO THIS FORM AND INDICATE BELOW

Yes, I have attached extra sheets.

No, I have not attached extra sheets.

SIGNATURE OF SUBMITTER

Signature:

Flora Mc

Date:

8/3/2017

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 see attachment as per email.

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.