

Submission: Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Plan Change 1 (PPC1)

Submission on a publicly notified proposed Regional Plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Submitting On: The Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Plan Change 1 (PC1)

Submitting To: Waikato Regional Council
401 Grey Street
Hamilton East
Private bag 3038
Waikato Mail Center
HAMILTON 3240

Date:	8 March 2017
Full Name:	Onewhero Tuakau Community Board, Waikato District Council. C/O Bruce Cameron, Chairman.
Phone (home):	(09) 233 3045
Phone (mobile/work):	027 4531 382
Postal Address:	R.D 5 Tuakau 2695
Email Address:	glennullen@gmail.com

Submission

1. I have reviewed Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora Plan Change 1 (PPC1) and **oppose** the Plan Change in its current form.
2. I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

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



Signature	date
B B Cameron	8 March 2017

Chairman OTCB

Signature	date
------------------	-------------

3. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Waikato Regional Council's Proposed Plan Change 1 (PPC1).

The Tuakau Onewhero Community Board (OTCB) here after referred to as such, is the largest community board within the Waikato Council jurisdiction. It encompasses the town of Tuakau and also the rural communities of Pukekawa, Opuatia, Glen Murray, Naike, Onewhero, Waikaretu, Te Kohonga and Port Waikato.

This area encompasses a very varied mix of farming; dairy, dry stock and horticulture making up the bulk of it with also a large number of small block farmers.

The area also encompasses a great range of soil types, from the very productive soils around Tuakau and Pukekawa which are used for market gardening, to the dairy farm soils and then extending further out to the coast for the more extensive hill country soils.

When the WRC first came to Tuakau asking what people wanted of the river, what came to the fore was a clean river. Everybody would want this.

The question that wasn't asked was how much do you want this and at what cost to the community, businesses, farming, horticulture and individuals? What are you prepared to pay? Are you prepared to pay the cost of a possible substantial increase in foods, especially horticulture products? Are you prepared to possibly lose your job, your business? Or if not you, a family member, friend or colleague?

If all this had been put to the people as part of the questionnaire, as to how much they want to have a clean and swimmable river and able to collect food from it's entire length, then a much more realistic balance would have been achieved.

It is noted that throughout the summer there is a substantial number of people swimming and engaging in various forms of water sports in the river most days, on both the upstream and downstream sides of the Tuakau Bridge.

These rivers are being swum in now. How much cleaner, and at what cost do we need them?,

The OTCB has serious concerns that the plan will seriously compromise businesses and especially farming properties from increasing production in the future, or even being able to continue current production.

Main Points

- 1. Manage diffuse discharges of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and microbial pathogens Policy 1, 2 and 4**
Having the grand-parenting of nitrogen rights effectively rewards those who have high emissions and punishes those who have mitigated a lot of those emissions. It is a costly way to reduce emissions with similar farms having to conform to different environmental standards.

Solution

Look at each sub-catchment and promote good management practices within each catchment; and that the nitrogen reference point only be used to determine those land users who need to reduce their nutrient discharges below the 75 percentile. With the use of farm environment plans, the other nutrient discharges would be dealt with, along with microbial pathogens

- 2. Restricting land use change Policy 6**

With an ever changing global market for our produce, we cannot allow our land to be locked in place at present levels and land use.

Solution

Land users should be able to modify their present land use as a permitted activity, providing that these farms have a farm plan that shows that they have adequate mitigation systems in place to reduce any increase in contaminants

- 3. Fencing rules Policy 1 and 2**

Under PC1 all water bodies that permanently contain water need to be fenced to exclude cattle, deer, horses and pigs. The cost to do this would be very exorbitant with the outcomes questionable as shown in the studies done by Federated Farmers.

Solution

Use the policies proposal to excluding stock from waterways set out in the governments recently announced clean water package 2017. This will then start to give uniformity throughout New Zealand.

- 4. Commercial vegetable growing Policy 3**

Areas of the OTCB have had a long history of vegetable production and the growers have taken great pride in the way they look after their land. Some land has been cropped for over 100 years with the soil still in very good order. With the growth in population predicted in the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty areas, vegetable production must be able to continue to grow.

Solution

Vegetable production is given an exemption from the general nutrient discharge restrictions as is the case in Auckland, provided they follow accepted good management practices.

The correction of the above four main points through the submission process will go a long way to keeping this area of the Waikato not only a valuable source of food, but also employment, and a healthy place to live.

A region needs three main-stays to survive.

- A healthy environment

- A healthy economy

- A healthy community

Like a three legged stool – remove any one of these, and everything collapses

With 11% of the area taken out through a challenge by the Hauraki Iwi, we feel the whole plan should be put on hold until a time when they can be both aligned together.