

## **My solution to enable the Waikato and Waipa Rivers' water quality to improve.**

### Introduction

New Zealand is a small country, isolated and at the bottom of the world.

To be successful in our goal to improve water quality the country must act as one and be realistic which is in line with the Vision and Strategy document.

When we sit a driver's test it is the same test in Invercargill or the Bay of Islands. The plan to improve water quality in our waterways should be the same nationwide and the same rules for everyone.

I don't understand every Regional Council in the country spending millions of ratepayers' dollars on their own plan when one for the whole of New Zealand would suffice.

The following is my solution:

The only way forward for water quality in our rivers to improve is to educate and to incentivise landowners to change their way of farming to meet future regulations. This was how agriculture became so successful in the past. Governments incentivised to clear land or add fertilizer to intensify production. This created the successful and prosperous country we are today. We now need to include environmental issues.

Farm environmental plans are part of the education process, but the plan must be the same nationwide.

All farmers are members of at least one of the following levied based groups:

Dairy NZ

Beef and Lamb

Horticulture NZ

Forestry Association

These groups are experienced at dealing with farmers and can be responsible to implement and audit the farm environment plans and recommended improvements to improve water quality.

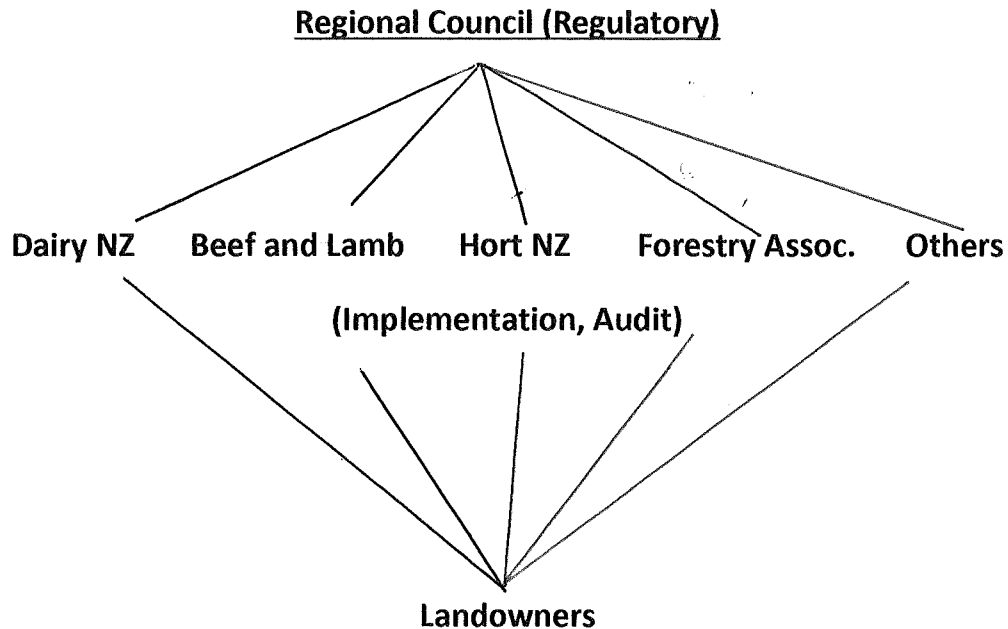
With the national organisations involved levy paying farmers will have some control of costs involved in the process.

Regional Councils cannot and will never be able to implement and audit farm environmental plans because they don't do that.

Councils cannot regulate, educate and implement anything as this is a direct conflict of interest.

The Agricultural sector will refuse to deal with a body that can prosecute and endeavour to educate as well. Also councils have no ability to contain costs which are passed directly to ratepayers.

Once the farmer organisations implement farm environment plans they will liaise with councils to suggest where incentives may be required to achieve the desired result.



The farmer levied groups above operating nationwide are very professional and once they are informed of their requirements will understand more clearly their purpose into the future.

There will be no time frame as long as the waterways are not degraded any further but a continuous improvement in water quality evolves even though the foot print in the population growth will be a challenge.

This is the way forward for agriculture and our waterways.

Plan Change One is summed up quite well on page 15 of the plan. PC1 is aspirational and seeks to meet higher standards than the National Policy Statement on water quality. The 80 year time plan is ambitious, will be difficult to achieve and costly. In fact full achievement not economically feasible. Doesn't bode well for the vision statement from the Vision and Strategy.

I have been informed by Waikato River Authority, the Waikato Regional Council and other politicians the Commissioners' here today have responsibility to recommend a way forward as those mentioned above refuse to take responsibility for any rules and regulations tabled in Plan Change One.

We as ratepayers can only hope.

Thank You  
Trevor Simpson