

**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.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

19-2-2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
date

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Please consider forwarding a copy of your submission to B+LNZ so we can echo your comments in our submission

To whom it may concern,

My family has farmed in this Area since 1862. I have been Farming here for 50 years. In that time we have changed our Farming system 9 times because of market returns, climate, and Politics to survive financially. Some of these changes were government lead. MAF lead and advised that we could run 18 stock units to the Ha. We tried this for 2 yrs and recognised the environmental impact.

We have been fencing off and riparian planting waterways and natural catchments for 40 years at our own expense. (The last one cost us \$37,000) Over that time, the bird life has increased 100 fold. We have now taken ~~42~~ Ha of 155 Ha out of production. This would not have been possible if we had not been farming dairy Goats.

Our Contour would be described as easy to steep hill country. We have been able to successfully farm our dairy goats outside for 19 years providing a high <sup>end</sup> product. (Infant Formula.) Our Goat management requires us to run an integrated system of dairy graziers and Beef cattle to control both internal parasites and pasture.

Two independent advisers have looked at our situation for it to carry on as a going concern. Their advice was that the expertise, outside of us, does not exist. No bank would finance anyone into it because of the lack of expertise. We know our system is the most sustainable for this land.

My wife and I are 60 & 68 years old. The goats require us to work 12 to 14 hours a day 7 days a week. We have no children. We employ 2 1/4 Labour units. The level of commitment required to carry on is coming to an end. We will exit the dairy goats this year and hopefully <sup>beef+lamb</sup> be <sup>NEW ZEALAND</sup> able to continue farming this property with not such a heavy workload.

The WRPCI plan as proposed does not make this an easy transition. We will require a resource consent to increase our beef cattle numbers. The problem being we have a very low MRP by taking a responsible attitude that the value of our land has dropped if we can sell it. So we must continue to farm it, probably at a loss, until there is more flexibility and clarity for the future.

I have seen two episodes in this farming district that have devastated the community. The first, being the loss of 12,500 sheep out of our road alone in the early 1980's because of market returns. All the shearers families went to Australia and the school roll went down.

The second, farmers turned to dairy graziers to survive. A.T.B. outbreak in the district and media coverage drove graziers away. So farmers had no choice but to split up blocks and sell them off to life stylers. The school CLOSED and now there is no community and no soul. I fear that WRPCI will be the <sup>last</sup> straw for the few remaining farms to survive because of the expense that will be required for them to comply. •

WRPCI does not bring about a sustainable community as it is totally unfair and inequitable. It pits neighbour against neighbour, Dairy farmer against Drystock, Urban against Country. It also puts an unfair expense on one sector of the community "the farmer" when all sectors need to take responsibility.

The WRC needs to do a Cost Benefit Analysis for the whole of the community so that everyone realizes they have their part to play.

Finally, we have always worked for the love of our country and our land to make it a better place for us having been here to look after & nurture it, but we now have grave fears <sup>for</sup> country's ability to produce food as under the present WRPCI we head towards a Police State.

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<p>Provision</p> <p>Restricting Land use Change (Policy C) Rule 3-11-5.7 P45.</p>	<p>I <del>support</del>/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>The date 22nd Oct 2016 for Stock numbers is too restrictive. I do not believe the different types of Farming Policies were adequately represented on the <del>CRS</del> CSC to show why this date is so restrictive. If this date remains it will cost us \$12000. As we need to change our Farming Policy this <sup>year</sup> it provides us with no flexibility.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: <del>Deleted in its entirety</del>/ <del>Retained as proposed</del>/ amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose that a date that fits with Farming calendar would be a far better solution. Maybe Mid-December</p>
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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>Nitrogen Reference Point N.R.P.</p> <p>Rule 3.11.5.2</p>	<p>The reasons for this are:</p> <p>Overseas is not fit for purpose the purpose of quantifying the amount of N leached with loads overlaid by other stock.</p> <p>Both the years 2014/15 &amp; 2015/16 were very dry years so it is totally unfair when you have a good growing year like this one and you cannot take advantage of it. I.e. Reduces Profitability. Rewards Polluters. Stops innovation &amp; investment Reduces future opportunities It is totally unfair in that it reduces the value of a low NRP while increasing the value of Land with a high NRP. It took 4 months by professionals to come up with NRP for us.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose that we go back to natural Capital at a sub catchment level</p>

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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>Reducing Contaminant Losses From Farms</p> <p>Rule 3.11.5.3.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: that the limit put on <del>E-coli</del> (Pathogen) is far too low and will never be achieved.</p> <p>From our experience of soys of fencing waterways &amp; riparian plantings the bird life explodes population increases dramatically. They are mainly wet land birds.</p> <p>We believe we have already reduced our discharges of Nitrogen, Phosphorus Sediment by what we have fenced and with the riparian plantings.</p> <p>The timeframe we are given will not allow for riparian plantings so vegetation is going to build in these waterways until a big rain comes and you have a huge washout thus releasing Sediment, Phosphorus and Pathogens into the water. This is from experience.</p> <p>There is a high cost involved in setting up Sediment Traps and their ongoing maintenance will make it not unviable to the business.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose</p> <p>I am not sure how to get around this one other than you show us.</p>

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Provision	I support/ oppose/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend	I seek that the provision is: Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/ amended as set out below
<p>Stock Exclusion.</p> <p>Rule 3-11-5-1 3-11-5-2 3-11-5-3 3-11-5-4.</p>	<p>The reasons for this are: that the timeframe involved to do it properly is to short. What we have left to do will come at a considerable capital investment so it needs to be planned and done right. We do not want to do all this fencing to be then told it has to go into forestry. (Waikato River Independent scoping study Niwa Sept 2010 Page 7 States 68,000 hectares from dry stock farm needs to go into forestry). We need certainty and clarity to put in large Capital Investment into our Farms.</p>	<p>As an alternative I propose that those areas destined for forestry be identified so that the investment in fencing waterways is not wasted. Fencing of waterways should start at a subcatchment level. Start with major waterways ie Hauiora, Mangapiko. Fence the length of these then the minors over a longer time frame. This should be done at a community level as you will get a better outcome than you will with what is proposed.</p>

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<p>Provision <u>Environment</u> <u>Farm Management Plans</u></p> <p>Rule 3-11-5.3 3-11-5.4 3-11-5.6.</p>	<p>I support/ <del>oppose</del>/ and for each whether or not you wish to amend</p> <p>The reasons for this are: I support F.E.P that allow us to know what our discharges are and where we can improve. <del>Using</del> We already use management practices to mitigate: like not grazing areas during wet periods. Putting lighter stock on more prone areas. Sending off heavier stock before winter.</p> <p>I oppose the cultivation of slopes &gt; 15°. The reason being that using certain techniques run off can be avoided.</p> <p>The costs involved of doing F.E.P. are \$5700 and NRP \$700 by Professionals will be to much for some farming businesses.</p>	<p>I seek that the provision is: <del>Deleted in its entirety/ Retained as proposed/</del> amended as set out below</p> <p>As an alternative I propose <sup>that the</sup> <del>time frame</del> for F.E.P. be extended to allow for professionals to be available to oversee templates that are designed to take the costs out of the F.E.P. &amp;</p>
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Yours sincerely

DANE MILLER.



Signature

19-2-2017

Date